

ABBEY'S ADVOCATE

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The James Hardie Saga

The Inside Story of the Asbestos Scandal and the Biggest Financial Settlement in Australia's History

Ean HIGGINS

Pb \$29.95

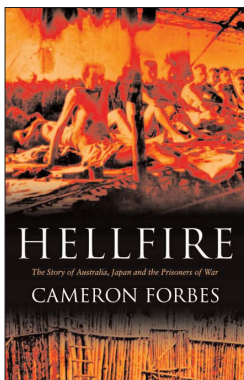
The subtitle says it all. The deliberate attempt to deceive investors, the NSW government, the Supreme Court and others, in a bid to permanently avoid liability for thousands of (future) victims of the company's products has got to be the new benchmark for corporate immorality in Australia. Each chapter introduces individuals and their varied experiences with the JH company, ranging from victims and their families to the lawyers working for JH, the directors and lawyers of the Asbestos Compensation Foundation, union leaders and the Medical Research and Compensation Foundation. It's a heady mix - 'innocent' children (aren't they all?) and the elderly versus the corporate plotters and shady men in expensive suits, but the David and Goliath undertone wears thin as you wonder how such a large, convoluted story could be reduced to a simple story that fits easily into your hand. I look forward to something with more depth and less sentimentality. *due May Cara*

Hellfire

Australia, Japan and the Prisoners of War

Cameron FORBES 576pp Hb \$45.00

For months during 1943, there was no night in Hellfire Pass. By the light of flares, carbide lamps and bamboo fires, men near-naked and skeletal cut a passage through stone to make way for a railway. Among these men were some of the 22,000 Australian soldiers taken prisoner by the Japanese during WWII. In camps across Asia and the Pacific, they struggled, died and survived with a little help from their mates. Their experiences became a defining feature of the war, just as Hellfire Pass was to become a defining symbol of what every prisoner experienced. This book tells the epic stories of these men. It charts the long history of racial tension between Australia and Japan, and the forces that shaped each country before the descent into war. Beyond the clash of nations, it intimately explores both bravery in battle and the different courage required to survive years of harshness and hard labour.

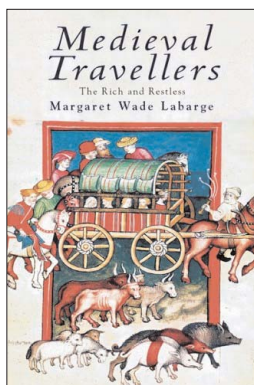


Medieval Travellers

The Rich and Restless

Margaret Wade LABARGE 256pp Pb \$24.95

Labarge takes a medley of upper-class men and women of the 13th to the mid-15th centuries and illustrates how they travelled throughout their known world. She presents such unforgettable and indefatigable travellers as Eudes of Rouen, who averaged 2,500 miles a year during his term as archbishop of Rouen; Mary, daughter of Edward I and a most restless nun; Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo, Castilian ambassador to the court of Timur at Samarkand; and Bertrand de la Broquiere, the Burgundian squire who disguised himself as a Turk in order to join a caravan returning from Mecca. Their stories, and those of their fellow travellers, underlie the mobility and the accompanying splendour which kings and queens, lords, ladies and leading ecclesiastics took for granted as the normal pattern of life in the later Middle Ages.



Miles Franklin Shortlist 2005

The Miles Franklin Literary Award is awarded for the novel of the year which is of "the highest literary merit and which must present Australian life in any of its phases". Since it was first awarded in 1957 to Patrick White for his novel *Voss* (Pb \$24.95), this award has encouraged authors and delivered an immense contribution to the richness of Australian cultural life. Past winners include Thea Astley, Peter Carey, Thomas Keneally, Elizabeth Jolley, Tim Winton and Shirley Hazzard, who won last year. Judges for this year's award are Eve Abbey, Professor Robert Dixon, Morag Fraser AM, Ian Hicks and Dagmar Schmidmaier AM. The winner will be announced on 23 June and featured in the July *Abbey's Advocate*.

Buy any Australian novel during May and go in the draw to win a signed copy of all shortlisted titles:

Salt Rain by Sarah Armstrong (Pb \$21.95)

An extraordinarily evocative novel of discovery, wherein 14-year-old Allie gradually realises that the picture of the past she is piecing together is different and much more complicated than she ever thought.

Sixty Lights by Gail Jones (Tp \$29.95)

Set in the 19th century, this is a powerful tale of a young woman's emotional and physical journey, and a touching exploration of the legacy created by one's actions in life.

The Gift of Speed

by Steven Carroll (Tp \$27.95)

Chronicles the lives, fates and fortunes of a memorable group of characters in a fictitious outer-Melbourne suburb in the glorious summer of 1960-61.

The Submerged Cathedral

by Charlotte Wood (Pb \$22.95)

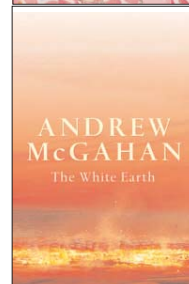
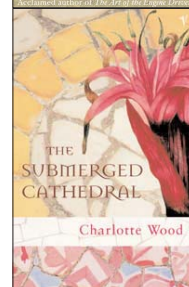
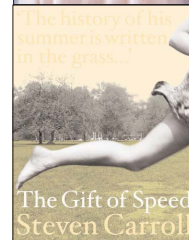
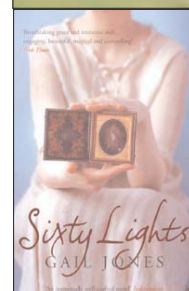
Spanning many years, travelling across our vast continent and through some of Europe's great cities, this is a beguiling, heartbreaking story of paradise and the fall, of sacrifice and atonement, and of sisterly love and rivalry.

The White Earth

by Andrew McGahan (Tp \$29.95)

A gripping storyline, believable characters, skilful narrative and brilliant style - and every single person I've given this to read has been reluctant to put it down!

Lindy



BOOKMARK THE



Featuring:

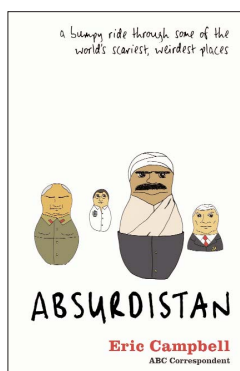
Tariq Ali
Deirdre Bair
Harold Bloom
Jared Diamond
Susan George
Alan Hollinghurst
Lewis Lapham
Colin McAdam
Tim Moore
David Suzuki
Michael Winter

23-29 MAY

www.swf.org.au

Christmas, New Year, Australia Day, Easter, school holidays, Anzac Day, Mother's Day. Hmm. Poor Mum has everything to do to keep up with the pressures of public holidays, so here's hoping She can relax on Mothers' Day and read one of the marvellous books mentioned below!

Give Mother everything she needs to combat this contemporary scourge; a copy of Princeton Professor Harry G Frankfurt's miniscule tome **On Bullshit** (67pp Hb \$14.95). A bull****er, says the prof, "does not reject the authority of the truth, as the liar does, and oppose himself to it. He pays no attention to it at all. By virtue of this, bullshit is a greater enemy of the truth than lies are." For the Mother who needs a moral education, Matthew Kneale's **Small Crimes in an Age of Abundance** (277pp Tp \$30.00) has a startling opening story about an English mum who causes a scene in provincial China, leading to dire consequences. Nothing, however, beats ABC reporter Eric Campbell's **Absurdistan** (334pp Tp \$29.95) to bring Mother up-to-date and behind-the-scenes in Australian foreign affairs - this journal of a war correspondent on the verge of the greatest adventure of his life (fatherhood) is both entertaining and enlightening and will give Mum a boost in the discussion stakes if she ever gets to that dinner party.



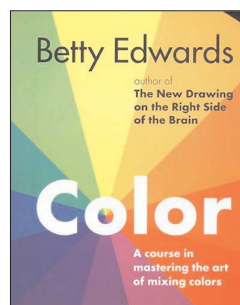
Why Won't My Child Listen? (279pp Pb \$24.95) is something overheard at mothers' groups across the world and this guide presents an entirely new approach to parenting in the 21st century by explaining how children's brains work and what you can do to create great self-esteem. In Dr Martien Snellen's **Sex and Intimacy After Childbirth: Rediscovering Desire in Your Relationship** (245pp Tp \$32.00), he offers practical suggestions for getting the spark back in the bedroom in a funny, insightful and deeply wise way. **Meanjin: Shrinks** (232pp Pb \$22.95) is a selection of Australian new writing on psychology and will either keep Mother abreast of her fear she is going mad or help her understand everyone else is.

Now for what really matters. Food. Irresistible, chic, convincing, funny, wise and very timely is Mireille Guilano's **French Women Don't Get Fat: The Secret of Eating for Pleasure** (280pp Hb \$29.95). This elegant treatise unlocks the simple secrets of "the French paradox": how to enjoy food and stay healthy; it may help with decreasing derrière sizes all over the planet. Aldo Buzzi's **The Perfect Egg and Other Secrets** (150pp Hb \$29.95) is a book of genial and highly refined chat, enriched with personal anecdotes, recipes and quotations from literature and history; it is a tribute to food's profound pleasures.

Stephanie Alexander's new edition of the ever-popular **The Cook's Companion** (1126pp Hb \$125.00) is the complete book of ingredients and recipes for the Australian kitchen and for a lifetime of cooking: if Mother doesn't already own it, get it for her. Two essential guides for Mothers-with-time-to-travel are Sally Hammond's **Australian Regional Food Guide** (464pp Pb \$29.95) and Derek Barton's **Australia's Best Wine Tours** (274pp Pb \$24.95). But if you are planning a feast day for Mother, then **Nigella Lawson's Feast: Food that Celebrates Life** (472pp Hb \$69.95) may help you sort out the menu and double as a present.

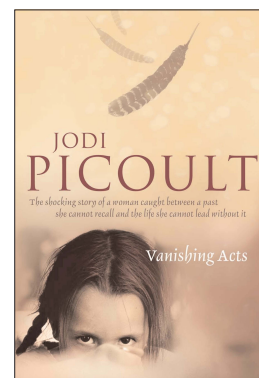
Now for the miscellany: **Bradford's Crossword Companion** (\$49.95) is a 5th edition, double-volume set (in a slipcase) and should satisfy Mother code-breakers everywhere. **The Rose: A Colourful Inheritance** (336pp Hb \$29.95) is a most beautiful guide to roses old and new, and this explores their colonisation of the earth in great detail (however, a magnifying glass may be helpful if Mother likes large print!). For designer Mother, Betty Edwards's new book, **Color: A Course in Mastering the Art of Mixing Colors** (206pp Tp \$45.00), is probably the most well-produced design guide for some time. If Mother is being told she knows nothing about men, then get her a copy of **The Best Australian Sports Writing 2004** (351pp Pb \$24.95) and she can surprise Father with her newly acquired intelligence on why the Thorpedo's sexuality has become public property. However, every Mother needs a copy of **The Complete Fact Finder on Australia and the World 2005** (746pp Tp \$34.95) since after bathing, washing, feeding, running the home business and banking, Mother still needs to know everything from what a polilight forensic lamp is, to what are the powers of parliament and where aboriginal boundaries begin and end. So go to it and if none of these tickle your fancy, come in and look around or browse our website for everything a Mother needs.

Shelley



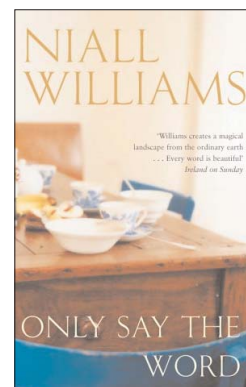
Vanishing Acts

Jodi **PICOULT** 432pp Tp \$29.95
Delia Hopkins has led a charmed life. Raised in rural New Hampshire by her widowed father Andrew, she now has a young daughter, a handsome fiancé and her own bloodhound, which she uses to find missing persons. But as she plans her wedding, she is plagued by flashbacks of a life she can't recall. What are these memories and what do they mean? In shock and confusion, she must search out the truth among these newly discovered recollections - even when they threaten to devastate her life and the lives of those she loves most. With consummate skill and sensitivity, Picoult examines what happens when the past we have been running from catches up to us, and questions who we trust to tell us the story of our lives before we are capable of remembering it ourselves.



Only Say the Word

Niall **WILLIAMS** 345pp Pb \$30.00
Jim Foley loves his parents, his brother, his sister, Dickens and God; later, he loves Kate - enough to make her his wife and to shape his life around her - and later still, he loves his children, Jack and Hannah. This is Jim's story, and the story of the people and places in his life, as he moves from childhood to marriage and fatherhood, from early days spent in County Clare to early adulthood in America, and back to Clare once more. Deeply personal and written in his lyrical, lilting prose, Williams's fourth novel is about unspoken emotions, undying devotion and blind faith - but, ultimately, about the redeeming, enduring nature of love.

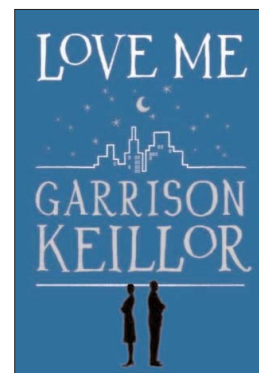


Five Oranges

Graham **REILLY** 362pp Pb \$21.95
This is the sequel to **Saigon Tea** (Pb \$20.95), so it will be a joy to readers who have had the pleasure of meeting the characters Frank and Eileen, Jimmy and Stella, Danny and Mai. The exploits of the characters as they holiday in Australia and brave the Vietnamese underworld make for hilarious reading. Reilly also gives us a real and touching insight into the lives of two middle-aged couples who are resigned to their routines. Frank and Eileen, for instance, have an odd but happy marriage in which most of their leisure time is spent watching nature documentaries on the Discovery Channel, with a nice bit of kinky sex afterwards. Particularly endearing are Danny from Scotland and Mai from Vietnam, who have settled in Melbourne and love each other with a passion.

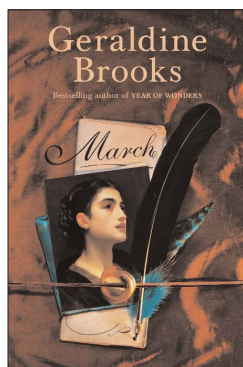
Love Me

Garrison **KEILLOR** 272pp Pb \$22.95
Larry Wyler is frustrated with provincial life and his failing marriage, until his bestselling novel, *Spacious Skies*, earns him a ticket to Manhattan, a million-dollar apartment and an office at *The New Yorker*. But when writer's block strikes, an invitation to write a newspaper advice column, 'Ask Mr Blue', provides a much needed distraction. Slowly, painfully, Wyler finds a measure of clarity for his own life, and then sets out to win back his wife's affections.



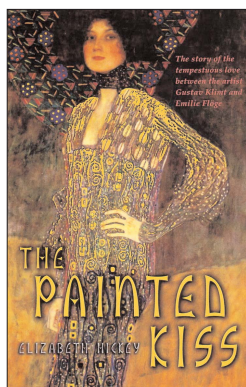
March

Geraldine BROOKS 400pp Tp \$29.95
Brooks has turned her attention to the American Civil War to tell the story of John March, known to us as the father away from his family of girls in **Little Women** (Pb \$12.95), Louisa May Alcott's classic American novel. March emerges as an abolitionist and idealistic chaplain on the front lines of a war that tests his faith in himself and in the Union cause when he learns that his side, too, is capable of barbarism and racism. As he recovers from a near-fatal illness in a Washington hospital, he must reassemble the shards of his tattered mind and body, and find a way to reconnect with a wife and daughters who have no idea of the ordeals he has been through. As Alcott drew on her real-life sisters in shaping the characters of her little women, Brooks turned to the journals and letters of Bronson Alcott, Louisa May's father, an idealistic educator, animal rights exponent and abolitionist who was a friend and confidant of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. The story spans the vibrant intellectual world of Concord and the sensuous antebellum South, through to the first year of the Civil War as the north reels under a series of unexpected defeats.



The Painted Kiss

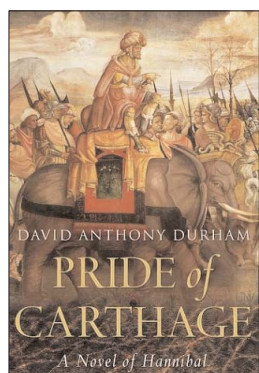
Elizabeth HICKEY 270pp Tp \$32.95
Vienna in 1886 was a city of elegant cafés, grand opera houses and a thriving and adventurous artistic community. It was there that 12-year-old Emilie Flsge met the controversial libertine and painter Gustav Klimt. Hired by her father, a Viennese businessman, to give her some art lessons, Klimt provided Emilie with an education that Mr Flsge would never have dreamed of when he introduced her to the world of struggling artists, models and rich patrons. The novel follows the developing relationship between the moody, brilliant Klimt and Emilie, who blossoms from a naïve young girl to a sanguine woman, becoming an acclaimed fashion designer and mistress to one of the 20th century's most fascinating artists.



Pride of Carthage

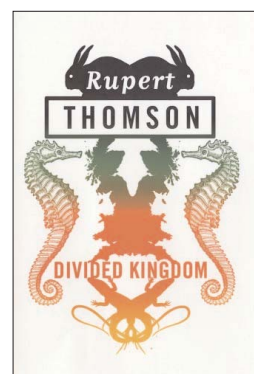
A Novel of Hannibal

David Anthony DURHAM 600pp Tp \$34.95
There is a Latin saying, "Hannibal ad Portas" (Hannibal is at the door) and it was said Roman parents used it to threaten their misbehaving children: if a child was bad, the parent would tell them that Hannibal was coming for them. Such was the fear Hannibal Barca instilled in mighty Rome... This is the story of one of the ancient world's most celebrated figures and the Second Punic War (218-202BC) - a long, bloody conflict between the two 'super powers' of the times that hinged on the genius, the ambition and the personal tragedies of two towering individuals: Hannibal Barca of Carthage, whose military genius became the stuff of legend, and Publius Scipio of Rome. History, of course, records the outcome - Rome was the victor, surviving to become the colossal Empire we know, while Carthage was burned to the ground and all but erased from history. But it was a close-run thing and the world might have been a very different place had Hannibal succeeded in stifling the might of Rome.



Divided Kingdom

Rupert THOMSON 397pp Tp \$29.95
At the age of 8, a boy is ripped away from his parents and home, sent to an old manor in the country and eventually reassigned a new name and family. He is just one of the reassessed, in a country which has just been rearranged according to the humoral theory. Sanguine, phlegmatic, choleric or melancholy personalities are all segregated into quarters, and continually monitored to ensure they are in their right place. The boy grows up in the sanguine country and advances through the (Orwellian) bureaucracy to the point where he is sent to a conference in another quarter, where his life takes an unexpected turn. A masterful novel where the unusual and implausible are all too believable, where the reader and the characters are swept along in an accepting, if occasionally incomprehensible, world. An absolute must for Thomson's fans, and highly recommended for those who have yet to experience this intriguing author's works. *due May*

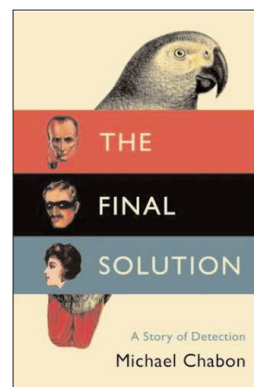


Cara

The Final Solution

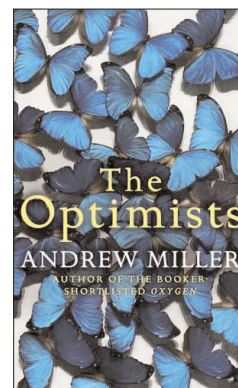
A Story of Detection

Michael CHABON 128pp Pb \$24.95
In this novella, Chabon has condensed his boundless vision to craft a short, suspenseful tale of compassion and wit that re-imagines the classic 19th century detective story. In deep retirement in the English countryside, an 89-year-old man, vaguely recollected by locals as a once-famous detective, is more concerned with his beekeeping than with his fellow man. Into his life wanders Linus Steinman, nine years old and mute, who has escaped from Nazi Germany with his sole companion: an African grey parrot. What is the meaning of the mysterious strings of German numbers the bird spews out - a top secret SS code? The keys to a series of Swiss bank accounts perhaps? Or something more sinister? Is the solution to this last case - the real explanation of the mysterious boy and his parrot - beyond even the reach of the once-famed sleuth? Subtle revelations lead the reader to a wrenching resolution.



The Optimists

Andrew MILLER 320pp Tp \$32.95
Clem Glass was a successful photojournalist, fired by his conviction that only photographs could capture the world's true face. Then, in Africa, he witnesses the grotesque aftermath of a genocidal massacre and returns to London with the belief that people, including himself, are fundamentally wicked. Now nothing - work, love, sex - can rouse him, and no other outlook can shift his altered vision. Not his father's Christianity, nor the new-found humanitarianism of his friend and fellow journalist Silverman. The one close relationship Clem is able to maintain is with his older sister, Clare, who has been struck down by the return of a mental illness she had been free from for 20 years. Together they set up home in the rural Somerset of their childhood, and together they keep the darkness at bay. But just as Clare begins to recover, news arrives out of the blue that the man responsible for the massacre is under arrest in Brussels. Clem's determination to confront the author of his nightmares sets in motion a startling sequence of events, and on his return to London he embarks on an inward journey that will lead to his own recovery.



Boudica

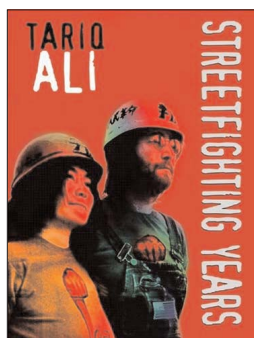
Dreaming the Hound

Manda SCOTT 409pp Tp \$34.95
Set in Iron-Age Britain, this is the third magnificent story in the life of the world's most famous warrior queen. Part two, **Boudica: Dreaming the Bull** has also just arrived in small format paperback at \$23.95.

Streetfighting Years

Tariq ALI 320pp Pb \$39.95

In this new edition of his memoirs, Ali revisits his formative years as a young radical. It is a story that takes us from Paris and Prague to Hanoi and Bolivia, meeting such figures as Malcolm X, Bertrand Russell, Marlon Brando, Henry Kissinger and Mick Jagger along the way. He captures the mood of those years with a novelist's lightness of touch as he tracks the growing significance of the nascent protest movement. This edition includes a new introduction, as well the famous interview conducted by Tariq Ali and Robin Blackburn with John Lennon and Yoko Ono.



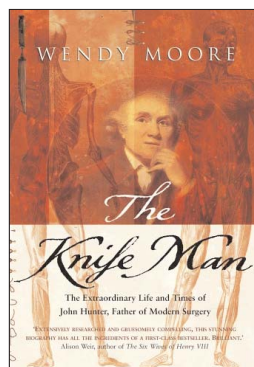
The Knife Man

The Extraordinary Life and Times of John Hunter, Father of Modern Surgery

Wendy MOORE

359pp Hb \$54.95

When Robert Louis Stevenson wrote his gothic horror story of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, he reputedly based the house of the genial doctor-turned-fiend on the home of the 18th century surgeon and anatomist John Hunter. Despite humble beginnings and poor academic prowess, he was to become the best-known anatomist of his day. At a time when operations were crude, painful and often fatal, Hunter revolutionised surgical practice through his groundbreaking scientific experiments. Rejecting Classical doctrines and medieval superstitions, he grounded surgery in experimental research and factual evidence. His tireless quest for human and animal bodies drove him to unparalleled extremes that immersed him in the murky world of body-snatching. He paid large sums to his criminal contacts for the stolen corpses which were delivered in hampers to his back door. Moore unveils Hunter's extraordinary world - characterised by hangings at the Tyburn Tree, gruesome expeditions to dank churchyards and countless human dissections in attic rooms. Meticulously researched and vividly drawn, this is a fascinating portrait of a remarkable pioneer in the emergent sciences of geology, biology and evolution and his determined struggle to haul surgery out of the realm of superstition and into the dawn of modern medicine.

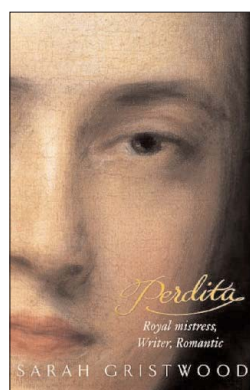


Perdita

Royal Mistress, Writer, Romantic

Sarah GRISTWOOD 454pp Hb \$65.00

Few women's lives have described such an arc as that of Mary Robinson - or Perdita, as she was widely known. She began her career as an actress, royal mistress and possible blackmailer, and ended it just two decades later as a Romantic poet and early feminist thinker of note. She was the subject of paintings by Gainsborough and Reynolds, and of numerous political cartoons. Born in 1758 in the shadow of Bristol Cathedral, she married at 15 - one Thomas Robinson, an article clerk of seemingly good family. But Mary had barely made her curtsy to society before discovering that Robinson was little better than a conman. As things grew worse, she followed her husband into debtors' prison, where she wrote her first book of poems. Encouraged by Sheridan and Garrick, who admired her beauty, she went on the stage and appeared in nearly 40 plays before being cast as Perdita in *A Winter's Tale*. The performance was witnessed by the 17-year-old Prince of Wales, and they embarked on a widely satirised liaison that saw the prince offering to pay Mary £20,000 when he came of age. Gristwood explores Georgian England during a period of extreme political upheaval through the life of one extraordinary woman.

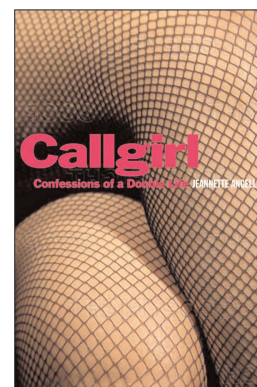


Callgirl

Confessions of a Double Life

Jeannette ANGELL 256pp Pb \$29.95

Angell moved to the US from France at the age of 21 after earning two university degrees. She went on to obtain three more, including a Masters in Divinity from Yale and studied for her PhD at Boston University. At 34, her live-in boyfriend ran off and cleaned out their joint bank account. Despite lecturing and teaching at several universities, including Harvard, MIT and the London School of Economics, she saw no way out of her financial crisis until she read an ad for "escorts" in the *Boston Phoenix*. This started a three-year dual career of teaching at universities in the daytime, while working as a \$200/hour callgirl at night. Angell provides insight into a world usually distorted by caricature and stigma with honesty, humour and intelligence.



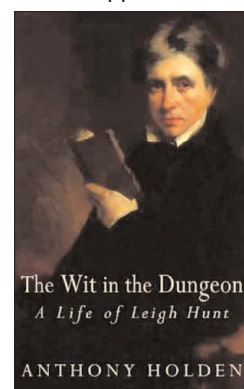
The Wit in the Dungeon

A Life of Leigh Hunt

Anthony HOLDEN

448pp Hb \$49.95

He was born in the year Dr Johnson died, and died in the year Conan Doyle was born. The 75 years of Leigh Hunt's life uniquely span two distinct eras of English life and literature. First publisher of Romantic poets, Keats and Shelley, friend of Byron, Hazlitt and Lamb, Hunt lived on to become an elder statesman of Victorianism, the friend and champion of Tennyson and Dickens, and was awarded a state pension by Queen Victoria. Jailed in his 20s for insulting the Prince of Wales, Hunt ended his long, productive life vainly seeking the Poet Laureateship with fawning poems to Victoria. A tirelessly prolific poet, essayist, editor and critic, he has been described as having no rival in the history of English criticism. Holden's deeply researched and vibrantly written biography gives full due to this minor poet - but major influence on his great Romantic contemporaries.



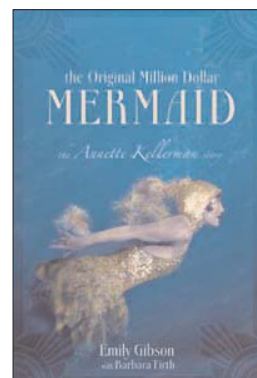
The Original Million Dollar Mermaid

The Annette Kellerman Story

Emily GIBSON with Barbara FIRTH

230pp Tp \$29.95

Born into a musical family in Sydney in 1886, Annette Kellerman took up swimming to overcome a childhood illness and quickly found herself breaking records and beating the boys. When the Depression hit, Annette and her father headed for England to seek their fortune. After winning over Londoners with her death-defying swims in the Thames and the English Channel, she was soon wowing them at the Palladium with her trademark vaudeville act: a performance that included diving into a giant glass tank where she captivated the crowds with her graceful and athletic underwater ballet. Hollywood beckoned and Annette quickly became the darling of the silent film era, starring in the first-ever million-dollar film, *Daughter of the Gods*. She was soon a household name dubbed "The Perfect Woman", crowds queued for blocks to see her on the screen, men flocked to catch a glimpse her provocative costumes - or lack thereof - and women thronged to hear her views on health and fitness. Immortalised in the 1950s Esther Williams classic, *The Million Dollar Mermaid*, Annette was to end her days alone and penniless on Queensland's Gold Coast, selling her old fur coat to pay the bills.



Fiction

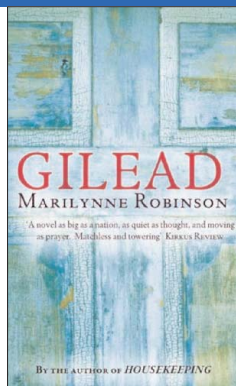
Gilead

Marilynne ROBINSON 280pp Hb \$39.95

If you need a little tenderness in your reading matter, this is a small but perfectly formed piece of heaven. It is written in the form of a letter from an elderly father, a preacher expecting to die soon, to his seven-year-old son. In this letter of love and longing is the family history, both remembered and apocryphal. As John Ames reconciles in himself the damage between his grandfather - an abolitionist preacher with fire in his eye and violence in his heart - and his pacifist father who preached in an entirely different vein, he reveals to his son how it is that love can cause as much harm as good. As he talks of his hopes and dreams for his son, his attention to the details of his life and love are illuminated by his faith in the Lord and his ever present joy in his wife. As Ames explores the heart of an abiding sorrow (made all the more immediate as its originator arrives back in the town of Gilead, Iowa), the nature of compassion as it supports and nurtures forgiveness is made wondrously clear. This is a little gem.

due May

Cara



Non-Fiction

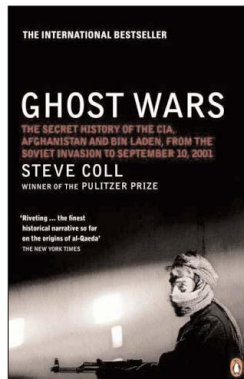
Ghost Wars

The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan and Bin Laden

Steve COLL 736pp Pb \$26.95

This news-breaking book, which sent shockwaves through the White House, is the most accurate and revealing account yet of the CIA's secret involvement in al-Qaeda's evolution. Coll has spent years reporting from the Middle East, accessed previously classified government files and interviewed senior US officials and foreign spymasters. Here he gives the full inside story of the CIA's covert funding of an Islamic jihad against Soviet forces in Afghanistan, explores how this sowed the seeds of Bin Laden's rise, traces how he built his global network and brings to life the dramatic battles within the US government over national security. Above all, he lays bare American intelligence's continual failure to grasp the rising threat of terrorism in the years leading to 9/11 - and its devastating consequences.

due mid-May



History

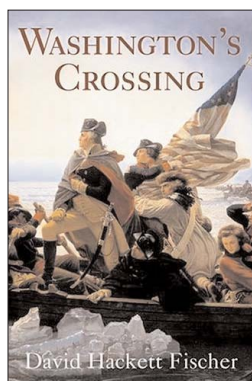
Washington's Crossing

David Hackett FISCHER

576pp Hb \$70.00

This is a marvellous examination of a pivotal moment in American history, six months after the Declaration of Independence, when Washington struck the British campaign a mortal blow in three battles. As well as showing the role of contingency in the events of this period, Fischer also shows that the open and flexible system adopted by the Americans, as well as their "policy of humanity", was crucial to their success.

Dave



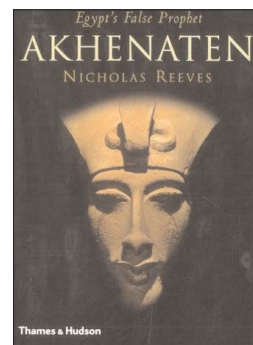
History

Akhenaten

Egypt's False Prophet

Nicholas REEVES 208pp Tp \$45.00

One of the most compelling and controversial figures in history, Akhenaten has captured the imagination like no other Egyptian pharaoh. Much has been written about this strange, persecuted figure whose freakish appearance - elongated and effete - is totally at odds with that of the traditional Egyptian ruler-hero. Scholars and laymen have speculated that he was a eunuch or a sufferer of a genetic disorder. Known today as a heretic, Akhenaten sought to impose upon Egypt and its people the worship of a single god, radically affecting the country in every way, from art to the written language. Reeves gives a different perspective on the turbulent events of Akhenaten's 17-year reign. He argues that, far from the idealistic founder of a new faith, Akhenaten cynically used religion for purely political ends in a calculated attempt to reassert the authority of the king and concentrate power in his own hands. In the process, he suppressed potential opposition by unleashing a terror that reverberated down the centuries. The founding of the new capital at el-Amarna was also politically motivated: Thebes, Egypt's premier city, had proved unreceptive to the king's ideas. Akhenaten's revolution ultimately failed as political, financial and moral corruption overwhelmed the regime.

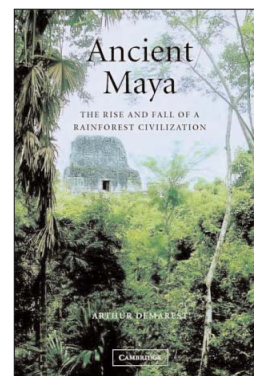


Ancient Maya

The Rise and Fall of a Rainforest Civilization

Arthur DEMAREST 390pp Tp \$59.95

This book brings the lost pre-Columbian civilisation of the Maya to life. In applying a holistic perspective to the most recent evidence from archaeology, paleoecology and epigraphy, this theoretical interpretation emphasises both the brilliant rainforest adaptations of the ancient Maya and the Native American spirituality that permeated all aspects of their daily life. The author draws on his own discoveries and the findings of colleagues to reconstruct the complex lifeways and volatile political history of the Classic Maya states of the 1st to 8th centuries.



Seven Ages of Britain

A History of the British People from the Ice Age to the Industrial Revolution

Justin POLLARD 336pp Tp \$27.95

This is an exploration of the lives of the ordinary inhabitants of Britain, starting when Britain first became an island at the close of the last Ice Age and ending at the beginning of the agricultural and industrial revolutions. Beneath the names and dates of schoolbook history there is another, often overlooked, story - the history of the people as a whole and their experience of life through the ages. From the Mesolithic to the dawning of the agricultural revolution, this unique social history tells the story of the ordinary people of Britain, who rarely emerge into the light of written history, but nonetheless were witness to its every twist and turn.



A Brief History of 1917

Russia's Year of Revolution

Roy BANTON

315pp Pb \$29.95

What was it like to be a worker in Petrograd or Moscow before the Revolution? How much did a tram driver know about Bolshevism? What was the price of a pair of boots? Banton examines not only the staggering bravado of revolutionary politicians, but the poignant stories recounted to him by ordinary families whose hopes and aspirations were soon turned to fear.



**CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS**

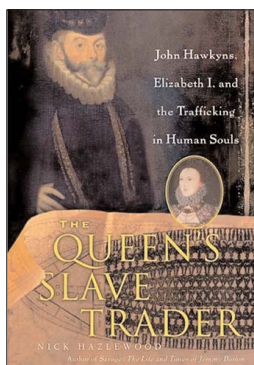
If you are after one of the fine titles from Cambridge University Press, please ask us first. We stock virtually all titles held by Cambridge in Australia, plus a few more!

The Queen's Slave Trader

John Hawkyns, Elizabeth I and the Trafficking in Human Souls

Nick HAZLEWOOD 448pp Tp \$29.95

In the 17th and 18th centuries, England was the greatest slave trading nation in the world. John Hawkyns, Queen Elizabeth's personal slave trader, had established the pattern during the 1560s, when he led three voyages to West Africa. His men ransacked African villages and attacked Portuguese slave ships and barracoons. In colonies along the Spanish Main and the West Indies, Hawkyns colluded with the settlers to sell the slaves they needed for their sugar mills, pearl-fishing operations, mines and farms. The enterprise came to grief in 1568, smashed by the Spanish treasure fleet at the Mexican port of San Juan de Ulua. Hazlewood tells the story of England's first incursions into the trade she would come to dominate, the way they were used to attack the Portuguese and Spanish super-powers, and the involvement for the first, but not the last, time of the English crown in the shameful traffic of human beings.



The Secret Middle Ages

Malcolm JONES

288pp Pb \$39.95

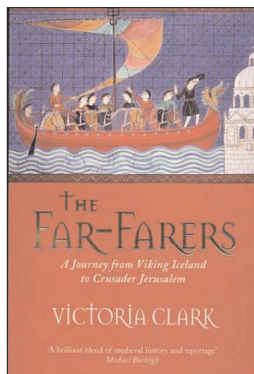
Using the wealth of medieval art, much of it unseen or ignored by museums and art historians, Jones paints a compelling picture of life as imagined by the great mass of ordinary people between 1200 and 1500. The picture that emerges is of a civilisation that is both like and unlike our own, one that teems with the richness of life and its contradictions. Unlike most studies of the medieval world, it does not concern itself greatly with religious or aristocratic art, but with the products of popular and folk art. Here we find beliefs and traditions rendered memorable by the vivid creative imagination and strong visual culture of the middle ages. Love, hatred, crime and punishment, proverbs, heaven on earth and even husband-beating all feature in the jewellery, tableware, illustrations, carvings and textiles of the period. This book provides a brilliant and evocative picture of medieval Europe, where people spent their time wearing their hearts on their sleeves, snapping sausages and getting bees in their bonnets.

The Far-Farers

A Journey from Viking Iceland to Crusader Jerusalem

Victoria CLARK 464pp Pb \$25.00

Just before the year 1000, a young Viking named Thorvald the Far-farer turned his back on the pagan gods of his fathers to preach the Christian gospel, travelling to Jerusalem, the golden heart of all medieval world maps. 1,000 years later, Victoria Clark retraces his epic voyage to discover how the dramatic events of Thorvald's Europe still resonate today.



God's Playground

A History of Poland

Norman DAVIES

Vol I **The Origins to 1795**

457pp Pb \$55.00

Vol II **1795 to the Present**

591pp Pb \$55.00

This new edition of the classic history of Poland has been revised and fully updated with two new chapters to bring the story to the end of the 20th century. The writing of Polish history, like Poland itself, has frequently fallen prey to interested parties. The author adopts a sceptical stance towards all existing interpretations and attempts to bring a strong dose of common sense to his theme. He presents the most comprehensive survey in English of this frequently maligned and usually misunderstood country.

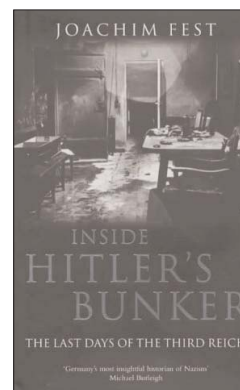
Inside Hitler's Bunker

The Last Days of the Third Reich

Joachim FEST

192pp Pb \$25.00

There is nothing in recent history that comes close to the cataclysmic events of the spring of 1945. Never before has the defeat of a nation been accompanied by such monumental loss of life, such utter destruction. Fest shows that the devastation was the result of Hitler's determination to take the entire country down with him; he would make sure that his enemies would find only a wasteland, where once there was a thriving civilisation. He describes in riveting detail the final weeks of the war, from the desperate battles that raged night and day in the ruins of Berlin, fought by boys and old men, to the growing paranoia that marked Hitler's mental state - his utter disregard for the well-being of both soldiers and civilians - to his suicide and the efforts of his loyal aides to destroy his body before the advancing Russian armies reached Berlin. Combining meticulous research with spellbinding storytelling, this book sheds light on events that, for those who survived them, were nothing less than the end of the world.



The Great Labor Schism

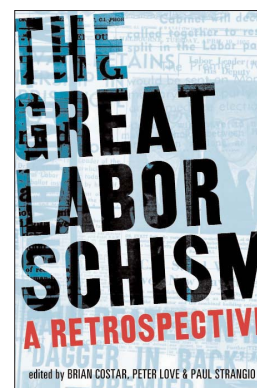
A Retrospective

Brian COSTAR, Peter LOVE & Paul

STRANGIO (eds)

304pp Tp \$35.00

In 1954-55, the Australian Labor Party suffered a devastating split which shaped politics in this country for a generation. A traumatic event in the lives of many Australians, the Split not only tore apart former political allies and trade unionists, it divided Catholic from Catholic, friend from friend, and even rent individual families. It was a period of high drama, dwarfing even the 1975 Constitutional Crisis for the passions and enmities it created and sustained for years afterwards. 50 years on, this book revisits the Split, with contributions from a range of leading historians and writers and examines the part played by key personalities such as B A Santamaria, Archbishop Daniel Mannix, H V 'Doc' Evatt and Frank Hardy.



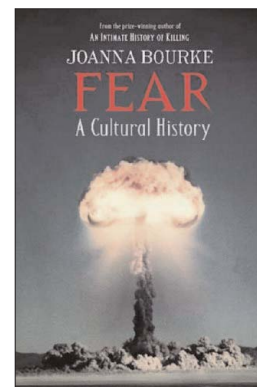
Fear

A Cultural History

Joanna BOURKE

512pp Hb \$59.95

Fear is one of the most basic and most powerful of all human emotions. Sometimes it is hauntingly specific: flames searing patterns on the ceiling, a hydrogen bomb, a terrorist. More often, anxiety overwhelms us from some source within: there is an irrational panic about venturing outside, a dread of failure, a premonition of doom. In this astonishing book, we encounter the fears and anxieties of hundreds of British and American men, women and children. From fear of the crowd to agoraphobia, from battle experiences to fear of nuclear attack, from cancer to AIDS, this is an utterly original insight into the mindset of the 20th century from one of most brilliant historians and thinkers of our time.



Clearings

Six Colonial Gardeners and Their Landscapes

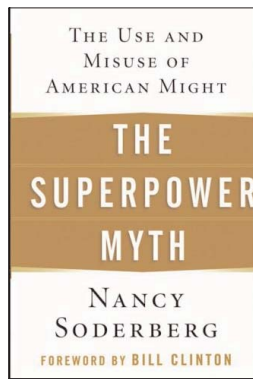
Paul FOX

288pp Pb \$39.95

When Europeans settled the Australian colonies, they saw beyond the wilderness of the bush to the possibilities of an ideal landscape. But first the land had to be cleared. And to make a clearing in the colonies was to erase what existed in nature and replace it with something new. Fox tells the stories of six colonial gardeners and their making of the Australian landscape.

The Superpower Myth The Use and Misuse of American Might

Nancy SODERBERG 416pp Hb \$43.95
Soderberg spent eight years as a high-ranking official in the Clinton administration. Her modest argument is that the way for the White House to win friends and influence people is to build strong international alliances, sharing the burden(?) of promoting peace and order with their partners. Going it alone leads to isolation and the accumulation of enemies, as is currently the case post-Afghanistan and mid-Iraq. There is a wealth of detail - from both the Clinton and Bush administrations' efforts over the past decade or so - which illustrates the unilateralism she believes has taken over American foreign policy and military intervention (including nearly 1,200 footnotes!), so there is a lot to digest. Ultimately, there are limits to American power. The author's concern is that the neoconservative brains trust behind the Bush administration does not and will not recognise any limits. *due May*

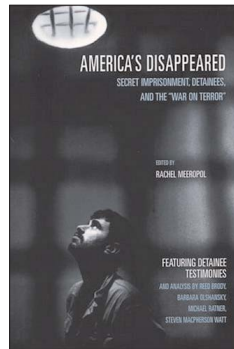


Cara

America's Disappeared

Secret Imprisonment, Detainees and the "War on Terror"

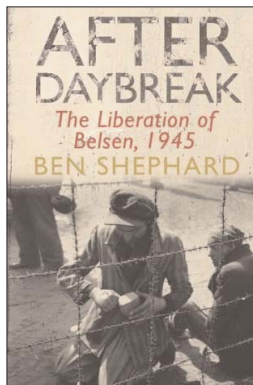
Rachel MEEROPOL (ed) 128pp Pb \$15.00
September 11, 2001 sparked a firestorm of racial profiling, detentions and deportations by the US government that was so grievous it evoked the shameful internment of Japanese Americans of more than half a century past. Thousands have been imprisoned without trial or any kind of judicial hearing: detained, often indefinitely, solely on the say-so of the executive. Yet knowledge of the particular circumstances and instances of the detentions remains dim. This text brings together, for the first time, detainees' own testimonies with a comprehensive framework for understanding the issues formed by leading constitutional scholars working for their release. Going beyond the prevailing accounts to a detailed exploration of detention - the forms currently in use and the conditions of each - the authors authoritatively refute its alleged justifications, boldly exploring its human costs.



After Daybreak

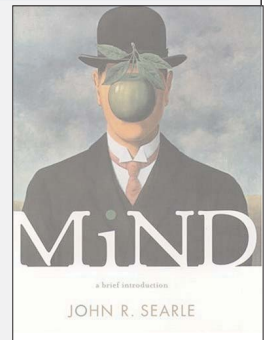
The Liberation of Belsen, 1945

Ben SHEPHARD 176pp Hb \$58.95
This is the story of the men and women who confronted a terrifying challenge, the emergency relief operation following the liberation of Bergen-Belsen. When British troops entered this concentration camp in April 1945, they found scenes of horror and depravity that would shock the world. Inside were over 60,000 people suffering from typhus, starvation and dysentery. They would die unless they received immediate medical attention. With the war still raging and only the most primitive drugs and facilities available, the army stretcher-bearers and ambulance drivers, medical students and relief workers strove mightily to save them. By the end of June, 46,000 people had survived, but 14,000 had died. The question is, should we see the relief of the camp as epic medical heroism - as the British believed - or was the failure to plan for Belsen (and the mistakes that were made there) further evidence of Allied indifference to the fate of Europe's Jews? This is dreadful, but needful, reading. Read it and weep.



Cara

The name John Searle is familiar to anyone interested in the philosophy of mind and the study of consciousness. His latest book is **Mind: A Brief Introduction** (319pp Hb \$59.95). It is his only attempt at a comprehensive introduction to the entire subject of the philosophy of mind and is essential reading for anyone who wants an introduction to these areas.



Martial: The Unexpected Classic (388pp Pb \$110.00) by J P Sullivan is the first full-length study in English of Martial's life, poetry and politics, as well as of the survival of his 15 books of epigrams and short poems from the time of his death around AD 104. The subjects covered include his defence of the epigram as an art form, his misogyny and obscenity, his style, wit and humour and his imperial propaganda.

Neil Smith's **The Endgame of Globalization** (227pp Hb \$49.00) argues that US actions since 9/11 represent the final stage in the US's century-long effort to complete the project of making US-led globalisation a concrete reality across the world. The book links what has been going on in the Middle East to the US-led effort to establish a new global regime based on free trade, deregulation and privatisation.

In **The Seven Basic Plots of Literature** (728pp Hb \$69.95), Christopher Booker uses a wealth of examples, from ancient myths to TV soap operas, to show that there are seven archetypal themes which recur throughout every kind of storytelling. He then goes on to investigate how and why we are 'programmed' to imagine stories in these ways, and how they relate to the inmost patterns of human psychology.

As well as being famous for books like **The Selfish Gene** (Pb \$34.95) and **The Ancestor's Tale** (Hb \$65.00) and the concept of the 'meme', Richard Dawkins is famous for his hostility to religion and his atheism, which he says arises naturally from his conviction of the total explanatory power of Darwinism. In **Dawkins' God** (202pp Pb \$38.95), Alister McGrath critiques Dawkins' views on religion and science in what is hopefully the opening salvo of a fascinating debate.

New in paperback is **The Oxford Companion to Scottish History** (732pp Tp \$59.95). It is the definitive guide to 2,000 years of Scottish history, and also covers archaeology, climate, geology, architecture and languages.

Roy Sorensen's **A Brief History of the Paradox** (394pp Pb \$36.95) is the first narrative history of paradoxes, a fascinating and eye-opening account that extends from the ancient Greeks through the middle Ages, the Enlightenment and into the 20th century. He looks not only at the paradoxes, but the thinkers who asked them, from Anaximander to Lewis Carroll.

In **Churchill: The Unexpected Hero** (308pp Hb \$42.95), Paul Addison tells the story of Churchill's life in parallel with the history of his reputation. He seeks to explain why Churchill was transformed into a national hero and argues that we are now in a position to reach beyond the mythology to see the real Winston Churchill, a warrior-statesman whose qualities were remarkably consistent through all the vicissitudes of his career.

The belief that religion was dying became the conventional wisdom in the social sciences during most of the 20th century. As we all know, religion has not disappeared and is unlikely to do so. Nevertheless, the concept of secularisation captures an important part of what is going on. **Sacred and Secular** (329pp Pb \$59.95) by Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart develops a theory of secularisation and existential security that is vital reading for anyone interested in religion and politics.

In **Myths of the Archaic State** (292pp Pb \$69.95), Norman Yoffee shatters the prevailing myths underpinning our understanding of the evolution of early civilisations. He counters the emphasis in traditional scholarship on the rule of 'godly' and despotic male leaders and instead depicts an evolutionary process centred on the concerns of everyday life.

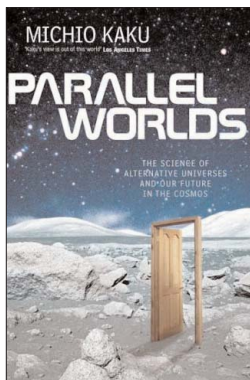
Dave

Parallel Worlds

The Science of Alternative Universes and Our Future in the Cosmos

Michio KAKU 432pp Hb \$59.95

What is the ultimate fate of our universe? Are there universes beyond our own? If so, can we ever hope to travel to them? Thanks to amazing developments in cosmology, scientists think they can now answer these questions. And thanks to this fascinating book, we can share the excitement of their discoveries. We learn about the 'multiverse', in which our universe is just one of many, and the wormholes that may connect them and through which our descendants may escape the end of our universe. After expecting this last December, it has finally arrived.



Dave

The Nature of Plants

Habitats, Challenges and Adaptations

John DAWSON & Rob LUCAS

314pp Hb \$64.95

There has always been interest in how animals live their lives, partly because it is easy for us to identify with them, but there are many remarkable stories about plants that also deserve to be told. This book tells how plants adapt to the challenges of their habitats, from the challenges of too little or too much water to toxic soil, fire and parasites. It also explores the love-hate relationships that plants have with animals, some feeding on plants, but others drawn into serving plants by pollinating them, scattering their fruits and seeds, or being eaten themselves. Illustrated throughout with superb colour photographs, it is clearly written and a must-read for anyone who wishes to understand the life of plants.

The Fabric of the Cosmos

Space, Time and the Texture of Reality

Brian GREENE

569pp Pb \$26.95

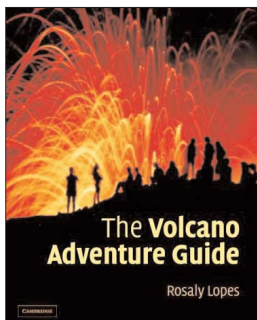
"Nothing troubles me as much as space and time; and yet nothing troubles me less, as I never think about them." - Charles Lamb. If you do think about space and time, then you will want to read this fabulous book. In it, the author of *The Elegant Universe* (Pb \$21.95) shows how relativity theory, quantum mechanics, cosmology and string theory have overthrown our common sense views of space and time. Although the subjects he tackles are sometimes difficult, he writes superbly, using humour, patient explanations and analogy to make thinking about them as easy and enjoyable as possible. With this book, Brian Greene confirms that he is one of the great popular science writers of our time. Even Mr Lamb would have been impressed. Dave

The Volcano Adventure Guide

Rosaly LOPES

352pp Hb \$89.95

This is the first book of its type. It contains vital information for anyone wishing to visit, explore or photograph active volcanoes safely and enjoyably. Following an introduction that discusses eruption styles of different types of volcanoes, how to prepare for a volcano trip and how to avoid volcanic dangers, the book presents guides to visiting 42 different volcanoes around the world. This section is packed full of practical information including tour itineraries, maps, transportation details and warnings of possible non-volcanic dangers. The stunning colour photographs throughout the book will delight armchair travellers, as well as inspire the adventurous to get out and explore volcanoes for themselves.



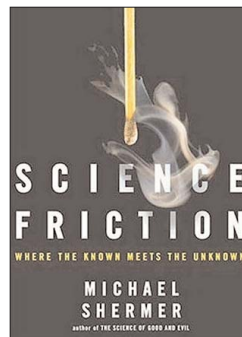
Science Friction

Where the Known Meets the Unknown

Michael SHERMER

396pp Hb \$45.00

A scientist pretends to be a psychic for a day - and fools everyone. An athlete discovers that good-luck rituals and getting "into the zone" may, or may not, improve his performance. A son explores the possibilities of alternative and experimental medicine for his cancer-ravaged mother. And a skeptic realises that it is time to turn the skeptical lens onto science itself. Psychologist and science historian, Shermer explores the barriers and biases that plague and propel science, especially when scientists push against the boundaries of the unknown. In one essay, he looks at the odds that even incredibly heretical ideas in science - that oil is not a fossil fuel or that cancer is an infectious disease - will find data to support them. He contemplates how the QWERTY keyboard and the Salem witch craze can help us understand the role of efficiency and feedback in history. And he dissects Intelligent Design theory using a scientific toolbox. Together, these 14 essays probe the omnipresent clash between the known and the unknown, always employing Shermer's trademark wit and intelligence.

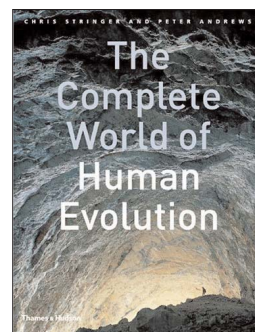


The Complete World of Human Evolution

Chris STRINGER & Peter ANDREWS

240pp Hb \$75.00

Human domination of our earth is now so complete that it is easy to forget how recently our role in the history of our planet began: the earliest apes evolved around 20 million years ago, yet Homo Sapiens have existed for a mere 160,000 years. In the intervening period, dozens of species of early ape and human have lived and died out, leaving behind the fossilised remains that have helped to build up the detailed picture of our evolution revealed in this exciting new book. Every aspect of the study of ape and human evolution is explored in three accessible sections, lavishly illustrated throughout with photographs, diagrams, timelines and specially commissioned drawings. This compelling and authoritative account is essential reading for anyone interested in, or studying, the story of human origins.



Stem Cells

Controversy at the Frontiers of Science

Elizabeth FINKEL

282pp Pb \$27.95

One of the most impassioned debates to have recently gripped Australian politicians and the public at large has been about the use of embryonic stem cells in medical research. This book examines all the issues. It provides a clear explanation of just what stem cells are - what the subtle differences are in the cells upon which most debate is focused - and why they are important for medical research. It explains how Australia found itself at the forefront of stem cell research, leading even the United States. It takes a clear-eyed look at the science, the ethics, the politics, the economics, the spin and the future.

Strange Universe

An Offbeat Tour of Our World and Beyond

Bob BERMAN

210pp Pb \$29.95

How many scientific phenomena do you experience each morning? As it turns out, quite a few. What you perceive as a shower curtain blowing in annoyingly against your leg or the colourful swirls on an oily puddle, a scientist might describe as, respectively, Bernoulli's principle and diffraction, keys to understanding countless marvels that forever surround us. How much truth is there to the belief that water spiralling down a drain has something to do with Earth's rotation? What was the most embarrassing, little-known moment about the first moon landing? In this wide-ranging and entertaining tour of the cosmos (and of our own little planet), renowned astronomer Bob Berman points out that the universe is as full of curveballs as it is of electrons; it only takes a little bit of science to appreciate it.



Sneaking a Look at God's Cards (488pp Hb \$58.95) by Giancarlo Ghirardi provides the reader with a real understanding of the problems faced in interpreting quantum mechanics. Written by a leading physicist, it is a very readable look at all aspects of quantum mechanics, including quantum cryptography and quantum computation, and presents a balanced view of current debates in the field.

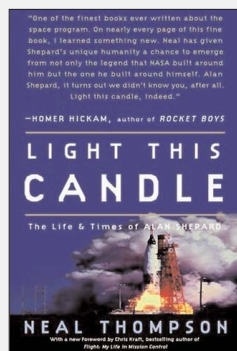
Strange Angel (350pp Hb \$54.00) by George Pendle tells the amazing story of John Whiteside Parsons, who was both a pioneer in post-WWII rocketry and a practitioner of black magic. With a cast of characters that includes Aleister Crowley, Howard Hughes, Robert Heinlein and Theodore von Kármán, it is a fascinating look at a man who lived simultaneously in the world of science and the world of the occult.

In **A Practical Guide to Rock Microstructure** (606pp Pb \$130.00), Ron Vernon discusses the basic processes responsible for the wide variety of microstructures in igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic and deformed rocks, using high-quality colour illustrations. He discusses potential complications of interpretation, emphasising pitfalls and focussing on the latest techniques and approaches.

Nigel Calder's **Einstein's Universe** (191pp Pb \$26.95) has been reissued with a new afterword. First published in 1979, it is an excellent introduction to Einstein's Special and General Theories of Relativity for the layperson.

New in paperback is Neal Thompson's **Light This Candle:**

The Life and Times of Alan Shepard (533pp Pb \$32.95). It is a fascinating look at the life of Al Shepard - the first American to fly in space and, to date, the only person to hit a golf ball on the Moon.



Radiation and Modern Life

(336pp Hb \$59.95) by Alan Waltar is a very accessible overview of radiation's many great benefits and as yet untapped potential. He shows just how essential radiation is, in areas as diverse as space exploration, agriculture, medicine and law enforcement.

The voyage that *HMS Challenger* began in 1872 was one of the most scientifically valuable voyages of all time. Its job was to explore the depths of the oceans and the sea floor. The fascinating story of what was discovered is told in Richard Corfield's **Silent Landscape** (285pp Pb \$24.95).

In **Science of Science and Reflexivity** (129pp Pb \$49.95), Pierre Bourdieu turns the tools of science back onto science itself to examine the social conditions and organisation of scientific knowledge. Using his distinctive methods, he offers a sociological analysis of science that does not seek to relativise science but on the contrary, enables us to understand better the social mechanisms which orient scientific practice.

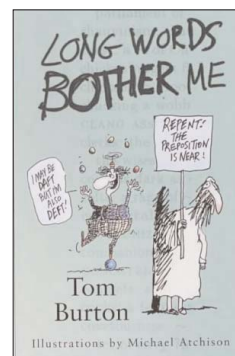
Quo Vadis Quantum Mechanics? (421pp Hb \$96.95) edited by Avshal Elitzur et al represents the combined efforts of 16 of today's most eminent theoretical physicists to lay out future directions for quantum physics. Contributors include Anthony Leggett, Gerardus 't Hooft, Lee Smolin and Henry Stapp. They address questions such as quantum non-locality, the measurement problem, quantum insights into relativity and cosmology, and the possible bearing of quantum phenomena on biology and consciousness. Dave

Long Words Bother Me

Tom BURTON

198pp Pb \$22.95

"Long words bother me" confessed Winnie the Pooh, but the fact is that the short ones are just as problematic. This book is about the craziness of words and how they can change their meanings in the most unpredictable ways over time. Synonyms can become antonyms and words that sound different can turn into homonyms. They can die for no apparent reason. Any they can't be controlled: today's error is tomorrow's accepted form. But most of all, they are fascinating. How is it, for example, that monks in the Middle Ages were able to call the Virgin Mary "buxom" and "daft" without either admiring her figure or questioning her intelligence? Why would an Anglo-Saxon warrior have been "thrilled" if hit by a Viking spear? And why can't "sledging" be kept off the cricket field?



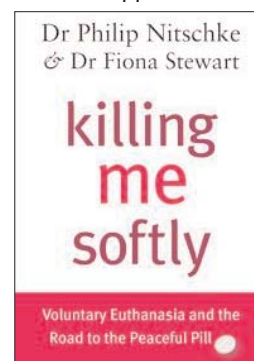
Killing Me Softly

Voluntary Euthanasia and the Road to the Peaceful Pill

Dr Philip NITSCHKE & Dr Fiona STEWART

272pp Pb \$32.95

Frustrated by continuing controversy and political inaction in this area, prominent activists Philip Nitschke and Fiona Stewart present a powerful argument in favour of our right to die as we choose. Their concerns include the way in which the medical profession has assumed 'ownership' of death, and the fact that existing laws restrict our end-of-life choices. They offer a future where a "Peaceful Pill" could revolutionise euthanasia just as the contraceptive pill transformed birth control a generation ago. This book is recommended reading, not just for those who already believe we have the right to choose a dignified death, but also for anyone still to be persuaded . . .



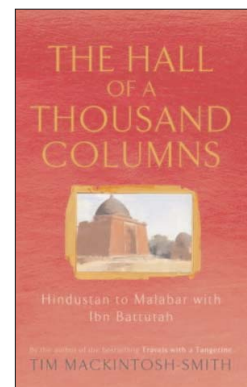
The Hall of a Thousand Columns

Hindustan to Malabar with Ibn Battutah

Tim MACKINTOSH-SMITH

320pp Tp \$34.95

Mackintosh-Smith's **Travels with a Tangerine** (Pb \$25.00) introduced the modern world to Ibn Battutah, 'Prince of Travellers'. This book covers the next leg of his travels - the great subcontinent of India. Born in 1304, Battutah left his native Tangier as a young scholar of law. He returned nearly 30 years later having visited most of the known world between Morocco and China. To many contemporaries, his tales were received as Munchausian fantasies - and it was India that stretched his readers' credulity beyond the limit. The author traces in situ the dizzy ladders and terrifying snakes of Battutah's Indian career - as judge and hermit, courtier and prisoner, ambassador and castaway. Over the course of his journey, he also finds a dead Muslim posing as a Hindu deity, Jesus popping up in the pulpit of a mosque and the rotten tooth of a mad sultan being revered as a saint. Battutah left India stripped to his underpants by pirates, but he took away a treasure of tales as rich as any in the history of travel - India was to be the jewel in the Prince of Travellers' turban.



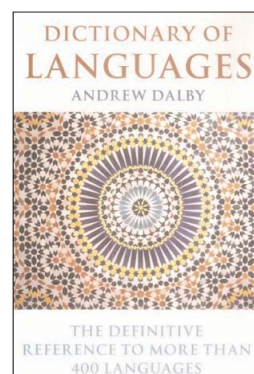
Dictionary of Languages

The Definitive Reference to More than 400 Languages

Andrew DALBY

752pp Pb \$55.00

Covering the political, social and historical background of each language, this book offers a unique insight into human culture and communication. Every language with official status is included, as well as all those that have a written literature, and 175 'minor' languages with special historical or anthropological interest. We see how, with the rapidly increasing uniformity of our culture as media's influence spreads, more languages have become extinct or are under threat of extinction. The text is highlighted by maps and charts of scripts, while proverbs, anecdotes and quotations reveal the features that make a language unique.

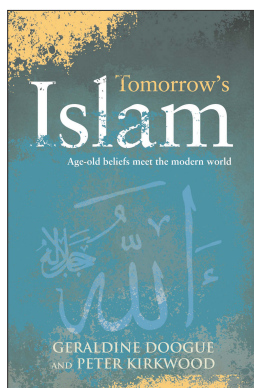


Tomorrow's Islam

Uniting Age-old Beliefs and a Modern World

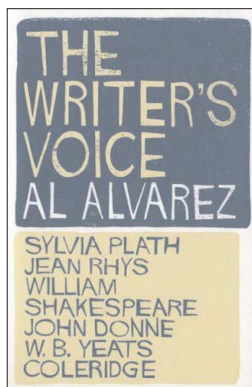
Geraldine DOOGUE & Peter KIRKWOOD
304pp Tp \$29.95

Originating from the acclaimed ABC television *Compass* special of the same name, this is a thoughtful and highly accessible insight into Islam from the perspective of two curious - and at times critical - Western journalists. Drawing on extensive research and interviews with leading progressive Muslim thinkers and leaders from around the world who are grappling with an accommodation between modernity and Islam, this compelling work considers the following issues: How does the world move on from September 11? Are most Muslims for or against terrorism and jihad? Is there really a clash of civilisations? Can the Muslim world embrace democracy? Are Muslims in the West ghettoised or leading reform? Are Islamic women repressed or autonomous? And regarding the future - is there cause for optimism or pessimism? At a time of grave unease and confusion in the world, this book addresses some of the most complex questions.



The Writer's Voice

Al ALVAREZ 128pp Hb \$35.00
"For a writer, voice is a problem that never lets you go, and I have thought about it for as long as I can remember - if for no other reason than that a writer doesn't properly begin until he has a voice of his own." What makes good writing good? In his brilliant new book, Alvarez argues that it is the development of the voice - as distinct from style - that makes a writer great. A poet as well as a critic, Alvarez approaches his subject both as an informed observer and an insider. Here are, among others, Sylvia Plath, John Donne, Jean Rhys, Shakespeare, T S Eliot, Coleridge and W B Yeats, dissected with clarity, depth and a profound understanding of the mechanics of writing.



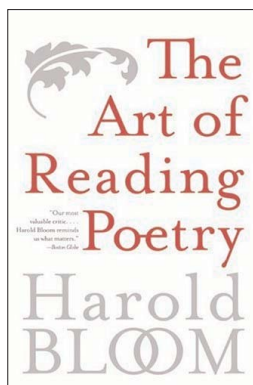
Arthur Miller

A Critical Study

Christopher BIGSBY 514pp Pb \$59.95
The author explores the entirety of Arthur Miller's work, including plays, poetry, fiction and films, in this comprehensive and stimulating study. Drawing on interviews conducted over the last 20 years, on unique rehearsal material and research archives, he paints a compelling picture of how Miller's works were influenced by, and created in the light of, events of the 20th and 21st centuries. This is an enjoyable insight into a great playwright that will interest both theatregoers and students of modern drama.

The Art of Reading Poetry

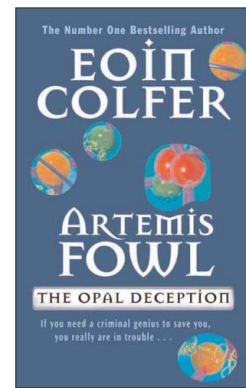
Harold BLOOM 96pp Pb \$18.95
A notable feature of Harold Bloom's poetry anthology, **The Best Poems of the English Language** (Hb \$65.00), is his lengthy introductory essay, here reprinted as a separate book. For the first time, Bloom gives his readers an elegant guide to reading poetry, a master critic's distillation of a lifetime of teaching and criticism. He tackles such subjects as poetic voice, the nature of metaphor and allusion, and the nature of poetic value itself. Bloom writes "The work of great poetry is to aid us to become free artists of ourselves." This essay is an invaluable guide to poetry.



Artemis Fowl

The Opal Deception

Eoin COLFER 352pp Pb \$19.95
Artemis is preparing to steal a masterpiece from a German bank vault. He doesn't remember anything about fairies, although he is quite suspicious as some strange things have happened lately and Butler just seems slower than normal. In the meanwhile, Holly Short is being led into a trap which will destroy her credibility - and worse. Opal Koboi, evil pixie, is supposed to be in deep sleep, but she's worked out a way to escape and continue her plans for world domination. An absolutely enjoyable continuation of the adventures of the feistiest fairy and the most likeable criminal genius - don't miss it!



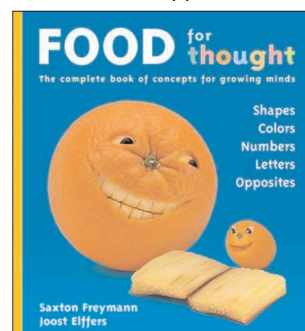
Emily's Rapunzel Hair

Cecily MATTHEWS & Freya BLACKWOOD 36pp Hb \$27.95
This is truly delightful and deserves to become a much-loved classic. Emily wants long hair, because Lucy Brown told her only boys have short hair, and she doesn't want to wait for her hair to grow. How she solves her problem will strike a chord with anyone with a little girl in their lives! Divided into seven short stories covering a year or so in Emily's life, this is ideal for bedtime reading. Blackwood's illustrations are enchanting and convey Emily's world and family beautifully. Ages 4-6

Food for Thought

The Complete Book of Concepts for Growing Minds

Saxton FREYMAN & Joost ELFFERS 62pp Hb \$24.95
A fun and witty book for preschoolers, this looks at shapes, colours, numbers, letters and opposites - using fruit and vegetables in 'produce sculptures'. Bananas turn into giraffes, pears into kangaroos, kumaras into guinea pigs, brussel sprouts into fish - a fertile and imaginative team are behind these illustrations! Proves the humble veg and piece of fruit are good for you in many different ways!



The Big Picture Book

John LONG & Brian CHOO 448pp Hb \$29.95
A great way to introduce mid-primary age readers to the concepts of life on Earth, unfolding through time. Starting from 12 billion years ago when the Universe formed ('or was it always there-'), the book proceeds to tell how Earth was formed, how life appeared in all its myriad forms including human. It ends with the thought of 50 million years from now. Easy to read format, excellent illustrations mixed with photographs, and a timeline along the margin of each double spread. An excellent resource.

Iron Soldiers

A Story of Arms and Armour

Dave LUCKETT & Joseph BOND 48pp Hb \$29.95
This should interest any young military historian (and the older ones as well!) or boys with a fascination for medieval weapons. Using the stories of (imaginary) smiths who developed new ideas for armour over the centuries, interspersed with excellent historical detail and fabulous illustrations, this will make history alive and colourful, without condescending to the reader or over-simplifying the sophistication of medieval armoury.



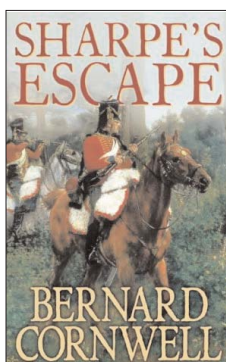
Books - Where Ideas Grow

We've delayed sending out this month's *Abbey's Advocate* so we could tell you the Short List for the *Miles Franklin Award* which was announced on 21 April. Did you know that - along with State Librarian Dagmar Schmidair, Professor Robert Dixon, Morag Fraser and Ian Hicks - I am one of the judges? For the first time this year, judges decided to issue a preliminary Long List, so I shall let you have it here. See if you can choose YOUR Short List from the following Long List (then look on the front cover for the official Short List):

Sarah Armstrong's **Salt Rain** (\$21.95), Andrew McGahan's **The White Earth** (\$29.95), Susan Johnson's **Broken Book** (\$29.95), Charlotte Wood's **The Submerged Cathedral** (\$22.95), John Harwood's **The Ghost Writer** (\$32.95), Gail Jones' **Sixty Lights** (\$29.95), Malcolm Knox's **The Private Man** (\$22.95), Denise Young's **The Last Ride** (\$22.95), Steven Carroll's **The Gift of Speed** (\$27.95), Amanda Lohrey's **The Philosopher's Doll** (\$29.95), Robert Engwerda's **Backwaters** (\$24.95) and Gerard Windsor's **I Have Kissed Your Lips** (\$24.95).

Since last writing, I've finished Nicholas Shakespeare's **In Tasmania** (\$39.95 Hb 374pp incl index, Pb \$32.95 due June). Just the thing to read before my holiday in Tasmania! He is such an enthusiast for his new place of residence. I found it absolutely delightful and fascinating and think when the paperback comes in we should put it in Travel rather than Australian History. There is plenty of swashbuckling history, especially concerning his ancestor, Antony Fenn Kemp, but also plenty of observation and description. Shakespeare is able to tell a good story and catch the nuance of speech from his informers. Lovely.

Talking of swashbuckling... I read a short review of a TV film where it was mentioned that "a lot of buckles were being swashed"! I thought this rather fun. It refers to a film made from Bernard Cornwell's series about Sharpe, a soldier under Wellington. Find these popular books, all 21 of them, in our busy Historical Fiction area. The latest title is **Sharpe's Escape** (\$18.95 Pb 449pp), set in Portugal during the Peninsular Wars.

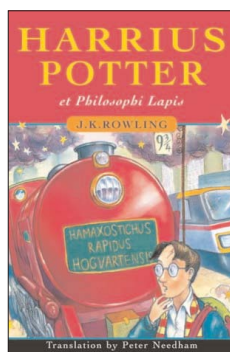


Of course you will also find there the many titles in the *Flashman* series written by George MacDonald Fraser. These are great fun, taking Flashman - the bully from **Tom Brown's School Days** - and turning him into a mock hero playing star roles in famous battles from history. Prices vary from \$16.95 to \$29.95. After the Sunday night showing last month, you might want to re-read **Tom Brown's School Days** (\$21.95), which you'll find in Abbey's famous Classics section. As a matter of interest, Thomas Arnold, the younger, is a character in Shakespeare's **In Tasmania**, being another of his ancestors!

Are you either going to the Eugene Goossens Hall to hear the Philharmonia's season of Bach cantatas or listening in on ABC Classic FM? If so, perhaps you'll be interested in some of the books about Bach in our 'Music: Composers' section, such as two titles from Harvard University Press, **Bach: Essays on his Life and Music** by Christoph Wolff (\$70 Pb 461pp incl index) or **Bach and the Patterns of Invention** by Laurence Dreyfus (\$43 Pb 270pp incl index). We also have the famous Albert Schweitzer biography, **J S Bach**, being the English translation by Ernest Newman (Vol 1 \$43 Pb, Vol 2 \$39.95 Pb). Or, amazingly, the 3-volume biography by Philipp Spitta, **Johann Sebastian Bach** (each vol \$59.95 Pb), first published in 1873-1880 and still in print from Dover, of course. The documentary about the sad fate of Eugene Goossens has been on TV again, so I should remind you about the touching memoir written by his daughter Rene Goossens, **Belonging** (\$27.95 Pb).

We are, sadly, giving up stocking the excellent Dover Scores. We will still special order particular titles for you - Bruce Turner will have the catalogue down at his desk in the corner and it should take less than two weeks to get one in. We are planning to give Religion a little more space, and to expand World History and also to find one spare stand for a special area for books 'marked down', so you will have a place to go and look for treasure. I know bookbuyers love this little hunt. Hardback editions of books now in paperback sit unnoticed at special prices in their original sections, but now we'll have a place for you to notice them!

I was upstairs one Sunday doing a bit of shelving in the marvellous children's section, as well as the Latin and Greek areas. I noticed a new arrival, **The Big Gold Book of Latin Verbs: 555 Fully Conjugated Verbs for Beginners and Intermediate Learners** by G Betts & D Franklin (\$27.95 Pb 682pp incl cross-referenced index). It includes a model noun and adjective declension table. This looks great value. There is another series, for several languages, called **501 Verbs** (from \$32.95 to \$39.95). I found this especially useful when learning Italian. We still have copies of **Harrius Potter et Philosophi Lapis** (\$39.95 Hb 249pp). I can't write that we also have it in Classical Greek (because I don't have those characters on my keyboard), but we do have it! (\$39.95 Hb 250pp).



Also upstairs is our famous Writing and Publishing section. We have stock of **The Writers' Handbook 2005** (\$45 Pb) and **The Style Manual for Authors, Editors and Printers** 6th edition (\$44.95 Pb). There is also a new addition by Elizabeth George, the very successful author of the Inspector Lynley crime novels. This is called **Write Away: One Novelist's Approach to Fiction and the Writing Life** (\$22.95 Pb). Even if you don't plan to write a Great Novel next week, this is interesting to read.

The great novelist Saul Bellow died in April aged 89. It says something about the enduring quality of his books when I tell you we had copies on our shelves of **Collected Short Stories** (\$27.95 Pb), **Adventures of Augie March** (\$27 Pb or \$39.95 Hb Everyman Classics), **Dangling Man** (\$21 Pb), **Henderson, the Rain King** (\$24 Pb), **Herzog** (\$22.95 Pb), **Humboldt's Gift** (\$21 Pb), **Revelstein** (\$19.95 Pb) and **Seize the Day** (\$21 Pb). It also reminds me to say that Abbey's is the place to go for backlist - come here first! My favourite was **Henderson, The Rain King**, which I must have read when I was about 20. In his time Bellow not only won the *Nobel Prize for Literature*, but also the *Pulitzer Prize* and often the *National Book Award*. He will continue to be read for many years. If you haven't already done so, start now.

A reminder about some good Australian writers. Eliot Perlman's touching story of a good young married man, **Three Dollars** (\$24 Pb), has now been made into an excellent film. Michelle de Kretser has won the *Tasmania Pacific Fiction Prize* for her terrific book **The Hamilton Case** (\$22.95 Pb), set in Sri Lanka (or rather Ceylon at that time). Geraldine Brooks has had good reviews for her book **March** (\$29.95 Pb), re-imagining the father from Louisa May Alcott's **Little Women** (\$12.95 Pb), which you'll find upstairs in the Children's Classic area. Her previous book, **A Year of Wonders** (\$22.95 Pb), was a big success, but I want to especially recommend her memoir of her youth in Sydney, **Foreign Correspondence** (\$22.95 Pb) and the book written after her time as a foreign correspondent in the Middle East, **Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women** (\$22.95 Pb).

There is yet another exhibition of Mummy Secrets at the Australian Museum in College Street, so head for our Egyptology section after you have taken the kids there. Dinosaurs and Mummies - the two biggest drawcards. 'Life Beyond the Tomb: Death in Ancient Egypt' ends on 22 May.

I've been to a seminar held by Clover Moore in the Town Hall about reducing the use of plastic bags. Here's an amazing statistic for you. It is claimed that in Victoria, 310 plastic bags per person are used each year! Gosh, that's almost one a day! As you know, Abbey's has been trying to reduce our use for several years. I hope you like our new stylish \$1 bags, which are non-woven polypropylene and quite durable. If you still have one of our nice cotton bags, try to remember to bring it when you come.

Eve



Abbey's Bestsellers - April 2005

Fiction

- 1 **The Da Vinci Code** by Dan Brown (Pb \$19.95)
- 2 **Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro (Tp \$29.95)
- 3 **Snobs** by Julian Fellowes (Pb \$21.95)
- 4 **The Rule of Four** by Ian Caldwell (Pb \$21.95)
- 5 **March** by Geraldine Brooks (Tp \$29.95)
- 6 **Fourty Four Scotland Street**
by Alexander McCall Smith (Hb \$34.95)
- 7 **Old School** by Tobias Wolf (Pb \$21.95)
- 8 **Earth and Sky of Jacques Dorme**
by Andre Makine (Hb \$39.95)
- 9 **Vanishing Acts** by Jodi Picoult (Tp \$29.95)
- 10 **The Grandmothers** by Doris Lessing (Pb \$22.95)

Non-Fiction

- 1 **Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Survive**
by Jared Diamond (Pb \$32.95)
- 2 **Kangaroo Court** Quarterly Essay #17 by John Hirst (Pb \$13.95)
- 3 **The Geology of Australia** by David Johnson (Pb \$69.95)
- 4 **The Fabric of the Cosmos** by Brian Greene (Pb \$26.95)
- 5 **Morris West: A Literary Maverick** by Maryanne Confoy (Pb \$29.95)
- 6 **The Civil War: The War for the Three Kingdoms 1638-1660** by Trevor Royle (Pb \$29.95)
- 7 **The Chosen Ones: The Politics of Salvation in the Anglican Church**
by Chris McGillion (Pb \$29.95)
- 8 **Library: An Unquiet History** by Matthew Battles (Pb \$24.95)
- 9 **French Women Don't Get Fat** by Mireille Giuliano (Hb \$29.95)
- 10 **Absurdistan** by Eric Campbell (Tp \$29.95)

Morris West

If you enjoyed Maryanne Confoy's excellent biography of Morris West (**Morris West: Literary Maverick** Pb \$29.95), you might like to read some of West's excellent novels, which are being reprinted by Toby Press.

Titles currently available are **Eminence, Lazarus, The Clowns of God and The Shoes of the Fisherman** (all Pb \$32.95) and **The Last Confession** (Pb \$29.00).

Now in Paperback

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult \$21.95

Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age 13, she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions and shots so that her sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since she was a child. And so she makes a decision that for most would be too difficult to bear, at any time and at any age. She decides to sue her parents for the rights to her own body.

My Nine Lives by Ruth Praver Jhabvala \$24.95

Booker Prize-Winner Praver Jhabvala's outstanding new novel explores a woman's possible destinies and carries subtle autobiographical resonances. Includes her own illustrations.

The Mould in Dr Florey's Coat by Eric Lax Pb \$39.95

In a time long before a scientist with a lead on a promising drug would immediately file for an initial public offering, neither Fleming nor Florey and his associates ever made money from their achievements; it was American people and companies that won patents on the processes of penicillin's manufacture and drew royalties from its sale. Why this happened, why it took 14 years to develop penicillin and how it was finally done, is a story of quirky individuals, missed opportunities, medical prejudice, brilliant science, shoestring research, wartime pressures and misplaced modesty.

Critical Mass: How One Thing Leads to Another by Philip Ball \$32.95

A fascinating exploration of the age-old question: are there 'laws of nature' that guide human affairs? Is there anything inevitable about the ways humans behave and organise themselves? Have we complete freedom in creating our societies, or are we trapped by 'human nature'?

Daylight by Elizabeth Knox \$22.95

Brian 'Bad' Phelan is an expert climber and caver and, while on vacation on the French-Italian border, he helps bring a body out of a rocky, wave-swept cove. Curiously, the dead woman bears striking similarities to a young woman he met years ago, shortly before she disappeared in a flooded French cave. Haunted by the strange connection, Bad is compelled to investigate.

Catherine De Medici: A Biography by Leonie Frieda \$24.95

The bestselling revisionist biography of one of the great women of the 16th century, and the sole legitimate heiress to the Medici family fortune.

The Company: A Short History of a Revolutionary Idea

by John Micklethwait & Adrian Wooldridge \$21.95

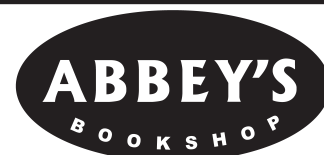
The present day might be called a corporate age, but the power of the company is nothing new: From Renaissance Italy to the British East India Company, it is impossible to understand the history of the last few hundred years without placing the humble company at the centre of the picture.

Editor: Ann Leahy

Contributors: Eve Abbey, David Hall, Lindy Jones, Shelley Kay, Ann Leahy & Cara Willetts

Binding Key

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Tp	Trade paperback (larger format)
Lp	Large paperback (very large)
Hb	Hardback
Lh	Large hardback (very large)
Ca	Cassettes



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* during every 6 month period ended 30 June & 31 Dec

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