Issue #203

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alone, in this alien culture

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\$300 worth of Eland Press titles to be won!

Eland is an imprint dedicated to the finest works of travel literature, with a list that encompasses classic routes and historical travel. This month, buy any of the Eland range and go in the draw to win your choice of \$300 worth of the best Eland titles! Even if you don't win, you will be assured of a reading experience to treasure. Here is an assortment of titles:

The Ginger Tree by Oswald Wynd
312pp Pb \$29.95
In 1903, Mary Mackenzie sails for China to marry the British Military Attache, a man who turns out to be every bit as chilly as the Peking winter. During one of his many absences, Mary has an affair with a Japanese soldier, Count Kurihama, but her pregnancy is impossible to keep secret. Rejected by husband, mother and country, and forced to leave her daughter behind, Mary flees to Japan. This is the fascinating story of her survival, isolated and

Travels with Myself and Another by Martha Gellhorn 296pp Pb \$29.95 Out of a lifetime of travelling, Gellhorn has selected her "best horror journeys". She bumps through rain-sodden, war-torn China to meet Chiang Kai-Shek, floats listlessly in search of U-boats in the wartime Caribbean and visits a dissident writer in the Soviet Union against her better judgement.

Portrait of a Turkish Family by Ifran Orga 332pp Pb \$29.95 Irfan Orga was born into a prosperous family in the twilight of the Ottoman Empire. His mother was a beauty, married at 13, who lived in the seclusion of a harem, as befitted a Turkish woman of her class. But WWI changed everything. Death and financial disaster reigned, the Sultan was overthrown and Turkey became a republic. The family was forced to adapt to an unimaginably impoverished life. In 1941, Irfan arrived in London, where he wrote this extraordinary story of his family's survival.

Lords of the Atlas by Gavin Maxwell 320pp Pb \$34.95
Set in the medieval city of Marrakesh and the majestic kasbahs of the High
Atlas mountains, Maxwell tells the extraordinary story of the Madani and
T'hami el Glaoui, warlord brothers who carved out a feudal fiefdom in
southern Morocco in the early 20th century.

Begums, Thugs and White Mughals by Fanny Parkes 400pp Pb \$29.95 Parkes, who lived in India between 1822 and 1846, was the ideal travel writer - courageous, indefatigably curious and determinedly independent. Her delightful journal traces her journey from prim memsahib, married to a minor civil servant of the Raj, to eccentric, sitar-playing Indophile, fluent in Urdu, critical of British rule and passionate in her appreciation of Indian culture.

Jigsaw: An Unsentimental Education by Sybille Bedford 368pp Pb \$29.95 This intensely remembered, partly autobiographical novel describes the childhood of Billi, a girl growing up in Europe between the wars.

A Dragon Apparent by Norman Lewis 336pp Pb \$34.95 Travelling through Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the twilight of the French colonial regime, Lewis witnesses these ancient civilisations as they were before the terrible devastation of the Vietnam War.

My Early Life by Winston Churchill 388pp Pb \$34.95 The first 25 years of Churchill's life were full of adventure: night marches, cavalry charges, skirmishes on the North West Frontier, escape from a Boer prison camp and a visit to the Cuban War.

The Village in the Jungle by Leonard Woolf 216pp Pb \$34.95 This novel, set in Ceylon, follows the lives of a handful of villagers hacking out a fragile existence in a jungle where indiscriminate growth, indifferent fate and malevolent neighbours constantly threaten to overwhelm them.

The Morocco that Was by Walter Harris 248pp Pb \$29.95 Until 1912, Morocco had never suffered foreign domination, and its mountainous interior was as closed to foreigners as Tibet. Harris was an exception. He lived in the country for more than 35 years and, as *The Times* correspondent, observed every aspect of its life.

Scum of the Earth by Arthur Koestler

288pp Pb \$29.95
At the beginning of WWII, Koestler was living in the south of France working
on Darkness at Noon (\$22.95). After retreating to Paris he was imprisoned
by the French as an undesirable alien, even though he had been a respected
crusader against fascism. "A few years ago we were called the defenders of
liberty - now we have become the scum of the earth."

Sultan in Oman by Jan Morris 168pp Pb \$29.95 This tells the story of the first crossing of the Omani desert by motorcar, in which Morris accompanied His Highness Sultan Said bin Taimur as a professional observer.

Miles Franklin Winner 2006

The Ballad of Desmond Kale

Roger McDONALD

Rich in the characterisations and earthiness of its early 1800s setting, this is an inspired recreation of the early days of Anglo-Australian settlement. It tells the tale of the escape of Desmond Kale - an Irish political prisoner and sheep breeder - and the vengeance of his rival, the wildly eccentric parson

magistrate, Matthew Stanton.

The Ballad OF DESMOND KALE

ROGER MCDONALD

638pp Tp \$32.95

Cara

"a big, ambitious book, a winding tale that takes its due time" - Peter Pierce, *The Age*

Competition Winners

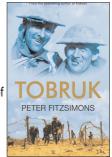
Congratulations to Josef Svarc, who correctly predicted this year's winner of the *Miles Franklin Award*. He wins two tickets to the 2007 *Miles Franklin Award* dinner.

Congratulations also to Robin Amm, who won a copy of **The Oxford Companion to Music** in our **Mozart: The Early Years** competition.

Tobruk

Peter FITZSIMONS

560pp Hb \$50.00 In the early days of April 1941, the 14,000 Australian forces garrisoned in the Libyan town of Tobruk were told to expect reinforcement and supplies within eight weeks... Eight months later, these heroic,



gallant, determined 'Rats of Tobruk' were rescued by the British Navy having held the fort against the might of Rommel's never-before-defeated Afrika Corps. Like Gallipoli and Kokoda, the Siege of Tobruk is an iconic battle in Australia's military history. Under ceaseless attack from Rommel's men, the Australian defence held strong. FitzSimons relates the personal histories and stories not only of the men who defended the garrison against the German onslaught, but of The Desert Fox -

Erwin Rommel - and the powers back in both Berlin and Britain.



Books - Where Ideas Grow

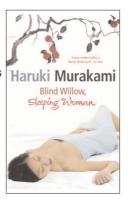
<u>Fiction</u>

Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman

Haruki MURAKAMI

352pp Tp \$32.95

This collection of short stories includes some written very early in Murakami's career, published in magazines rather than anthologised, and a couple which have turned up in previous collections, but the bulk are brand new. Having read them cover to cover - they are all that good - I have since re-read six of them. There are two translators involved in making Murakami's work available to us in English and I am eternally grateful to them. The whimsy and the slightly off-the-wall approach to memory and reflection is stunningly drawn, while the subtle surrealism is utterly convincing and emotionally engaging. Murakami is one of the few authors I have read who is a master of both short stories and novels. I only wish there were two of him so that his output would double! due July Cara



ALEXANDER

LOVE OVER SCOTLAND

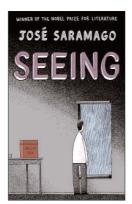
Love Over Scotland

Alexander McCALL SMITH 224pp Hb \$34.95 This is the third in the series and revolves around the many colourful characters that come and go at No 44 Scotland Street. McCall Smith handles the characters with his customary charm and deftness - the stalwart Tory chartered surveyor, the pushy mother and most importantly in this novel, the Italian-speaking prodigy,



Bertie. due July

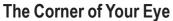
Jose SARAMAGO 352pp Tp \$32.95
Despite the heavy rain, the presiding officer at Polling
Station 14 finds it odd that by midday on National
Election day, only a handful of voters have turned out.
Puzzlement swiftly escalates to shock when the final
count reveals 70% of the votes are blank - not spoiled,
simply blank. National law decrees the election should
be repeated eight days later. The result is worse, 83%
of the votes are blank. The incumbent government
receives 8% and the opposition even less. The
authorities, seized with panic, decamp from the capital
and place it under a state of emergency. Who are the
insurgents? Why the desire to destabilise the country?



The authorities leap from one possibility to the next, but achieve nothing. The lack of hostility exacerbates things - how can justice be meted out when not a single law has been broken? To all intents and purposes, the administration is blind! Saramago has deftly created the politician's ultimate nightmare: disillusionment not with one party, but with all, thereby rendering the entire democratic system useless.

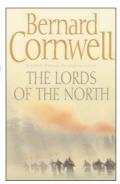
The Lords of the North

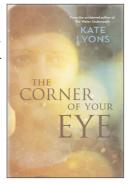
Bernard CORNWELL 336pp Tp \$32.95 Enter a world where bloody battles and heroic deeds combine in the historic struggle to unite Britain in the face of a common enemy. The third instalment in Bernard Cornwell's King Alfred series follows on from the outstanding **The Last Kingdom** (Pb \$18.95) and **The Pale Horseman** (Tp \$29.95). Uhtred, a Northumbrian raised as a Viking, a man without lands, a warrior without a country, has become a splendid heroic figure in this powerful story set in an England of turmoil, upheaval and glory.



Kate LYONS

A daughter has disappeared. Six months ago, 12-yearold Flo ran away from home and then just disappeared.
Her mother Lucy, having retreated to a country town to
find a new life, now hears a whisper that sets her again
on the long-cold trail. She has never believed that Flo
is dead and has her suspicions about who might be
responsible for her disappearance. Lucy returns to
Sydney - with only her wits, her anger and her fierce
determination - to find the truth.





The Love Knot

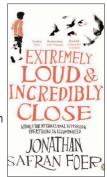
Elizabeth CHADWICK 480pp Pb \$22.95 The year is 1140 and England is torn by the strife of civil war. Oliver Pascal chances upon a village raided by mercenaries and rescues the survivors: an orphaned boy, who is the illegitimate son of the old king, and his mother's maid, a young widow named Catrin. After escorting them to Bristol Castle, they are accepted into the household of Robert of Gloucester. While Catrin finds herself falling in love with Oliver, she suffers a deep boredom at the frivolity of court life. Thus when the old



midwife Etheldreda offers to teach her the secrets of her ancient art, Catrin agrees. But the midwife's life is fraught with dangers, not least Oliver's own personal fears, which threaten their relationship, but also in the shape of two men, both killers and both of whom threaten the couple's lives. However, Catrin is determined to pursue her career and keep Oliver. While England fights a civil war, she battles for her love and for her vocation.

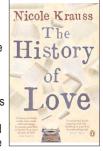
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Jonathan Safran FOER 368pp Pb \$24.95 Nine-year-old Oskar Schell is an inventor, amateur entomologist, Francophile, letter-writer, pacifist, natural historian, percussionist, romantic, explorer, jeweller, detective, vegan and collector of butterflies. When his father is killed in the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Centre, Oskar sets out to solve the mystery of a key he discovers in his father's closet. It is a search which leads him into the lives of strangers, through the five boroughs of New York, into history, to the bombings of Dresden and Hiroshima, and on an inward journey which brings him ever closer to some kind of peace.



The History of Love

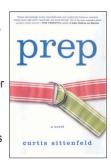
Nicole KRAUSŠ 272pp Pb \$22.95 Leo Gursky is a man who fell in love at the age of 10 and has been in love ever since. These days, he is just about surviving life in America, tapping his radiator each evening to let his upstairs neighbour know he's still alive, drawing attention to himself at the milk counter of Starbucks. But life wasn't always like this. 60 years ago, in the Polish village where he was born, Leo fell in love with a young girl called Alma and wrote a book in honour of his love. These



days, he assumes that the book, and his dreams, are irretrievably lost, until one day they return to him in the form of a brown envelope. Meanwhile, a young girl, hoping to find a cure for her mother's loneliness, stumbles across a book that changed her mother's life and she goes in search of the author. Soon these and other worlds collide in a captivating story of the power of love, of loneliness and of survival.

Prep

Curtis SITTENFELD 403pp Pb \$22.95 Lee Fiora is an intelligent, observant 14-year-old when her father drops her off at the prestigious Ault School in Massachusetts; she leaves behind her affectionate family in South Bend, Indiana, her head filled with images from the school's glossy brochure, in which boys in sweaters chat in front of old brick buildings, girls hold lacrosse sticks on pristine athletics fields and everyone sings hymns in chapel. As Lee soon learns, Ault is quite unlike anything she has previously experienced, a self-

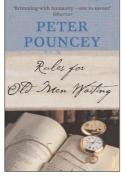


enclosed world populated by jaded teenagers whose expectations, values and social rituals are utterly unfamiliar to her. At first an observer of, then a participant in, the hyper-vigilant, intricately demarcated life of the school, Lee eventually finds her own place in the pecking order, until a single act of spontaneous folly shatters her carefully honed identity. This is a sharp and lucid portrait of the pain and the excitement of adolescence, and a remorseless dissection of privilege and class in the cradle of the American establishment.

Fiction

Rules for Old Men Waiting

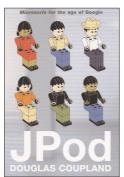
Peter POUNCEY 224pp Pb \$23.95 Old man MacIver, military historian and one-time centre for Scotland's rugby team ("quite quick in his day"), recently widowed, has holed up in his holiday home. He makes rules to "stop the rot", as he and his house crumble away - what he must burn, when he should eat, how to write something every day. Gradually, a strange and gripping parallel tale is born, of men in the trenches of the Great War (Sergeant Braddis, king of No-Man's-Land, with his pincer-like nails;



Private Callum, the quietly subversive artist; Lieutenant Simon Dodds, decent and unremarkable; and salt-of-the-earth Private Charlie Alston, caught up in a story of inhumanity and betrayal. MacIver recalls, too, his own experiences in WWII and tries not to think about the later war which took his son away. He tries to make sense of his marriage, his own anger and innate violence, matching these against the turbulent century through which he has lived. It's winter and he is dying; but his memories - tender, sardonic, even hopeful - glint as brightly as a gold watch in the Flanders mud.

JPod

Douglas COUPLAND 464pp Tp \$32.95 About 10 years ago, one quiet Thursday evening, I sold a silver book called **Microserfs** (Pb \$22.95) to a German traveller. A few minutes later, his friends appeared and they purchased all our 10 copies. They worked for Bill... they were indeed 'Microserfs'. Still one of the funniest books I've ever read, **Microserfs** looks at the two-dimensional existence of computer geeks. The good news is that Coupland has updated it for the age of Google.



Ethan Jarlewski and five co-workers whose surnames end in 'J' are bureaucratically marooned in JPod. JPod is a no-escape architectural limbo on the fringes of a massive Vancouver game design company. The six workers daily confront the forces that define our era: global piracy, boneheaded marketing staff, people-smuggling, the rise of China, marijuana grow-ops, Jeff Probst, and the ashes of the 1990s financial tech dream. JPod's universe is amoral and shameless. The characters are products of their era, even as they're creating it. Everybody in Ethan's life inhabits a moral grey zone. Nobody is exempt, not even his seemingly strait-laced parents or Coupland himself. Full of word games, visual jokes and sideways jabs, this book throws a sharp, pointed lawn dart into the heart of contemporary life.

Alentejo Blue

Monica ALI 304pp Tp \$32.95
This is the story of the Portuguese village of
Mamarrosa, told through the lives of those who live
there and those who are passing through - men and
women, children and old people, locals, tourists and
expatriates. For some, such as Teresa - a beautiful,
dreamy village girl - it is a place from which to escape;
for others - the dysfunctional Potts family - it is a way
of running from trouble (but not eluding it). Vasco, a
cafe owner who has never recovered from the death



of his American wife, clings to a notion that his years in America make him superior to the other villagers. One English tourist makes Mamarrosa the subject of her fantasy of a new life, while for her compatriots, a young engaged couple, Mamarrosa is where their dreams finally fall apart.

Captain Starlight's Apprentice

Kathryn HEYMAN

258pp Tp \$32.95

This is the story of two women living very different, heroic lives in Australia. Jess, circus-raised, is a stunt-rider who can outride any man. In the early days of film, she finds her calling, playing wild outlaw women who answer to no one. However, when her Chinese circus-owner husband is killed, she is left pregnant and vulnerable and, after suffering the cruellest betrayal of all, she finds herself closer to the outlaw's life than she had ever imagined. Rose goes to Australia from England in the 1950s in search of a new life. But neither the new country nor motherhood is what she expected and, very quickly, she finds herself estranged from those she loves, incarcerated and terrified. Yet Rose is strong and she will manage not only to save herself, but also to shed new light on Jess's story in a moving and deeply satisfying way.

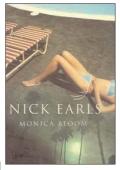
Children's

Monica Bloom

II G reviewed by Lindy Jones

Nick EARLS 156pp Pb \$19.95

This is a sweet and tender novel about change and coping and that first true attraction to another person. Matt is almost 17, getting efficiently through the last year of private high school, keeping in mind the words of an Old Boy: "If school is the best time of your life, then your school has failed you." He meets Monica Bloom, his neighbours' cousin from Ireland, and finds himself fascinated and attracted, and just maybe the feeling is mutual. At the same time, his father resigns his managerial job after an embezzlement scandal and



Matt's life suddenly starts to tip from its comfortable balance. Everything he took for granted is now uncertain - the house must be sold, his mother becomes the breadwinner, his father descends into apathy, unfounded gossip makes life difficult - but the thought of Monica, the possibilities of knowing her, keeps Matt going. This is a truly perfect book, restrained and beautifully realised, slightly elegiac in tone, with characters and situations you recognise as truthful. Written for young adults, but Earl's adult fans should allow themselves the pleasures of this book!

The Stone Light

Kai MEYER 304pp Pb \$14.95 I stand behind my assertion that **The Flowing Queen** (\$14.95) was one of the very best books of 2005 and I know many other readers agree. This is the sequel and it is an exciting and welcome continuation of the adventures of Merle, Junipa and Serafin. Merle is on her way to Hell with Vermithrax the obsidian lion, in search of help, bearing the mysterious Queen. Serafin joins a band of rebels in Venice, who are plotting to overthrow the Pharaoh (not knowing that the true power behind the throne are ancient sphynxes), but

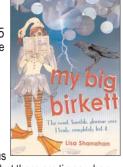


their intriguing leader may not be telling all she knows. Junipa has seen some awful things, including the possibilities of her future. In his native Germany, Meyer has sold over half a million books in this series. We will just have to wait for the English translation of the third instalment to find out how it all comes together. Oh yes! - there is a cliffhanging finish to this book too! Highly recommended.

My Big Birkett

Lisa SHANAHAN 333pp Pb \$16.95

Poor Gemma! She hates public speaking so much she vomits, but the only way to get the attention of the school spunk is to join the staging of The Tempest, in which she lands the role of Miranda. Her weird older sister is marrying into an even weirder family, and wants Gemma (aged 14) to be the flower girl - in a swan's outfit! And Raven De Head, a member of the town's outcast family, seems to like her way too much... This is a sweet and funny and sad and glorious



story about growing up in a country town, of learning that there are times when chucking a tantrum (in Gemma's family, known as a birkett) is the most adult thing you can do, and that even when life scares you, you can fly.

Dreamrider

Barry JONSBERG 215pp Pb \$16.95

It was only upon reading the author's note at the end of this book that I fully appreciated the compelling and powerful story I had been reading. Michael is about to start yet another new school. His Dad has a drinking problem, which started after the death of Michael's mother in a car accident. Michael, who is obese, is a natural target for bullies, but he has the ability to escape into lucid dreaming, where reality is altered. He does make a friend though at this new school, as well as enemies, but will this be enough to save him? A thought-provoking and intense novel. 14+

Fairy School Drop-Out

Meredith BADGER 151pp Hb \$14.95

Elly is decended from a very famous fairy family, but she has neither talent nor liking for magic. She would much rather ride her skateboard than catch a cloud, wear jeans rather than scratchy tutus, and her baby sister has more power in her little finger than Elly in her whole body. But as her parents don't think Kara can possibly be doing spells, Elly gets blamed for the messes that occur. This is a lovely antidote to all those pinkly, goody-goody fairy books, in an attractive little volume with purple ink and line drawings. My 7-year-old niece just loves this!

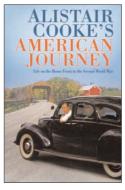
Biography

Alistair Cooke's American Journey Life on the Home Front in the Second World War

Alistair COOKE

352pp Hb \$49.95

This is a newly discovered, completely unpublished book by the legendary journalist and broadcaster. As a Washington correspondent for *The Guardian*, Cooke recognised the great story to be told in revealing the effects of WWII on the daily lives of Americans as they adjusted to radically new circumstances. Within weeks of the Pearl Harbour attack, with his reporter's zeal, he set off on a circuit of the entire country to see what the war had done to people. He talked to everyone he encountered on his extensive trip, from miners, lumberjacks, warprofiteers and day-labourers to local politicians and even the unfortunate Japanese-Americans who had

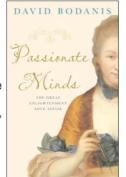


been rapidly interned in stark, desert camps. His prescient observations on what was happening and his considerations on where America was headed provide a clearer understanding of a critical moment in world history just prior to the dropping of the atomic bomb.

Passionate Minds

The Great Enlightenment Love AffairDavid BODANIS 336pp Tp \$35.00

Emilie du Chatelet was one of the greatest thinkers of the 18th century, a woman whose work was of vital use to Einstein and who, until now, has been largely ignored by history. Fiercely intellectual and passionate, her relationship with Voltaire was as radical as her thinking; only after swordfights, wild affairs and rigging the French national lottery did the two finally find love together! In an isolated chateau, they combined their unique talents, producing theories more than a century



ahead of their time. Together they challenged the social norms and great injustices of the era, as well as expanding on Newton's Laws. When they ran out of money, Emilie, with her razor-sharp mathematics, would gamble in Versailles. Their progressive thinking won them only public scorn, and even imprisonment in the Bastille for Voltaire. When their love finally ended, Emilie found happiness in an independent life until, tragically, she became pregnant. (Aged in her 40s, this meant almost-certain death in childbirth). Voltaire returned to comfort her in her last months, when she wrote some of her most important work. *due July*

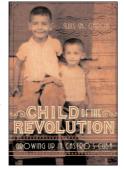
The Lady and the Monk Four Seasons in Kyoto

lyer PICO 352pp Pb \$29.95

Monks who cherish Mickey Mouse and collect motorbikes, hardened businessmen who read 'love poetry' and geishas who visit temples... Such was the paradoxical world that confronted Pico when he spent a year in the ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto. On a mission to learn the subtleties of Zen and to discover how much his romantic childhood dream of Japan reflects its reality, he throws himself into a culture that is elusive and out of reach. Then he meets Sachiko. Elegant and refined, dreaming of rock stars and America, she embodies all that is contradictory about Japan. Through their friendship, the country's fusion of ancient and modern, East and West, begins to make sense. Through Sachiko, Pico begins to put aside his illusions of Japan and understands its reality.

Child of the Revolution Growing Up in Castro's Cuba

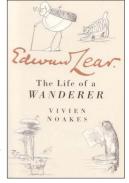
Luis M GARCIA 248pp Tp \$29.95 Cuba, a land of cigars, hot nights, sultry music and romantic, revolutionary heroes. But what was it really like to live in Castro's tropical paradise? With an evocative, wide-eyed innocence, Garcia takes us back to his Cuban childhood and his parents' dreams of escape. This is a story about growing up in an extraordinary place at an extraordinary time, as the superpowers prepared to go to war over nuclear missiles installed on the tiny Caribbean island. It is a



story set in a world of uncertainty and revolutionary upheaval, where a 10-yearold swears allegiance to Lenin, Marx and the legendary Che Guevara under swaying palm trees, with no idea of what it all means, except this is the only way to become a better revolutionary and get out of school early. It is also the story of brothers and sisters torn apart by politics and how a Cuban teenager and his family end up, by sheer accident, on the other side of the world.

Edward Lear The Life of a Wanderer

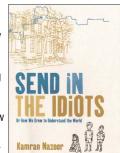
Vivien NOAKES 320pp Pb \$30.00 Edward Lear is famous as the author of **A Book of Nonsense** (Pb \$12.95) and the timeless children's songs, *The Owl and the Pussycat* and *The Jumblies*. Yet, for this gentle genius, infectious merriment mingled with a deep sadness. Born the 20th of 21 children, he was rejected by his mother and brought up by his eldest sister. Almost entirely self-taught, at the age of 19 he published



Illustrations of the Family of Psittacidae (parrots), one the finest books of ornithological illustration ever produced. Then at the age of 25, he turned his back on this early success to become a traveller and landscape painter. Always an outsider, yet at ease with the noblest in the land, he was a friend of the Pre-Raphaelites and of Tennyson, and was drawing master to Queen Victoria. Loved by the children whom he entertained with his songs and stories, he was an innovator in both literature and art, bringing the largely oral tradition of 'nonsense' into the literary fold, accompanying his verses with simple, powerful drawings that were revolutionary in their day and set the pattern for modern cartoon illustration.

Send in the IdiotsOr How We Grew to Understand the World

Kamran NAZEER 240pp Hb \$35.00 In 1982, when he was four years old, Nazeer was enrolled in a small school in New York City alongside a dozen other children diagnosed with autism. Calling themselves 'The Idiots', these kids received care that was at the cutting edge of developmental psychology. Now a policy adviser in Westminster, Nazeer decides to visit four of his old classmates to find out how they are living now, how much they have been able to overcome and what remains missing. A speechwriter unable to make eve contact: a



messenger who gets upset if anyone touches his bicycle; a depressive suicide victim; and a computer engineer who communicates difficult emotions through the use of hand puppets - these four classmates reveal an astonishing, thought-provoking spectrum of behaviour. Using his own experiences to examine such topics as the difficulties of language, conversation as performance and the politics of civility, this is also a rare and provocative exploration of the way that people - all people - learn to think and feel.

The Mystery of Olga Chekhova

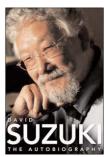
Antony BEEVOR 320pp Pb \$26.95
Olga Chekhova was a stunning Russian beauty
and a famous Nazi-era film actress whom Hitler
counted among his friends. She was also the
niece of Anton Chekhov. After fleeing Bolshevik
Moscow for Berlin in 1920, she was recruited by
her composer brother Lev to work for Soviet
intelligence. In return, her family was allowed to
join her. The extraordinary story of how the whole
family survived the Russian Revolution, the civil



war, the rise of Hitler, the Stalinist Terror and the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union becomes, in Beevor's hands, a breathtaking tale of compromise and survival in a merciless age.

David Suzuki The Autobiography

David SUZUKI 416pp Tp \$29.95 Suzuki writes compellingly of the environmental crises, challenges and opportunities he has seen throughout the world in his travels as writer and broadcaster. He outlines his work to help save the way of life of tribes in the Amazon, and with that the vital ecosystem of the Amazon basin. His meeting and friendship with the Kaiapo chief Paiakan makes compelling reading, as do his



numerous meetings with world leaders, from Nelson Mandela to the Dalai Lama. This year Suzuki celebrates his 70th birthday, but he shows no signs of slowing down.

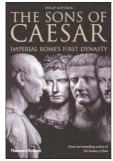
due July

History

The Sons of Caesar Imperial Rome's First Dynasty

Phillip MATYSZAK

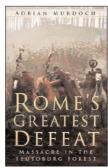
296pp Hb \$55.00
This is the story of one of the most colourful dynasties in history, from Caesar's rise to power in the first century BC to Nero's death in AD 68. It reviews the long history of the Julian and Claudian families in the Republic and the social and political background of Rome, but at the heart of this account are the lives of six men - Julius Caesar, Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius and Nero - men who mastered Rome, and changed it from a democracy to a personal



possession. Set against a background of foreign wars and domestic intrigue, the story of Rome's greatest dynasty is also the story of the birth of an imperial system which shaped the Europe of today.

Rome's Greatest Defeat Massacre in the Teutoburg Forest

Adrian MURDOCH 256pp Hb \$59.95
Over four days at the beginning of September AD 9, half of Rome's Western army was ambushed in a German forest and annihilated. Three legions, three cavalry units and six auxiliary regiments - some 25,000 men - were wiped out. It dealt a body blow to the empire's imperial pretensions and was Rome's greatest defeat. No other battle stopped the Roman empire dead in its tracks. From the moment of the Teutoburg Forest disaster, the Rhine, rather than the



Elbe as the Romans had hoped, became the limit of the civilised world. Rome's expansion in northern Europe was checked and Rome anxiously patrolled the Rhineland borders, awaiting further uprisings from Germania. Although one of the most significant and dramatic battles in European history, this is also one which has been largely overlooked. Drawing on primary sources and a vast wealth of new archaeological evidence, Murdoch brings to life the battle itself, the historical background and the effects of the Roman defeat as well as exploring the personalities of those who took part.

Ancient Greek Literary Letters

Patricia ROSENMEYER

176pp Pb \$53.00

The only major work of its kind on Greek epistolography, this book examines short selections of fictional letters, and excerpts from histories, epics and novels, from the second and third centuries CE, the so-called 'Golden Age' of prose epistolography. Arranged chronologically, with introductory sections for each time period, this book studies a wide range of writers, genres and literary levels, and analyses love letters, philosophical letters, historical novels in letters, sketches of rural life and courtesan life, and comic letters among many more. This highly entertaining selection includes translation of previously inaccessible or untranslated works, and defly opens up a neglected area of study to provide an enjoyable and central study text for students of Greek epistolography.

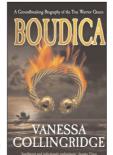
The Distaff Gospels (c 1470)

Kathleen GARAY & Madeleine JEAY (eds) 225pp Pb \$21.95

This is the first English translation of this anonymous work since 1510. The women's beliefs are recounted within the narrative frame of traditional gatherings where women meet with their spindles and distaffs to spin. They share advice on such important matters as how to control errant husbands, how to predict the gender of future offspring, how to cure common diseases and ways to deal with evil spirits, providing a rare and fascinating look into the intimate lives of medieval peasant women. The critical introduction discusses the literary context, textual history, and cultural significance of these Gospels.

Boudica

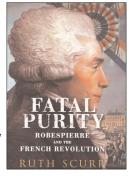
Vanessa COLLINGRIDGE 432pp Pb \$24.95 Boudica has been immortalised throughout history as the woman who dared take on the Romans - an act of vengeance on behalf of her daughters, tribe and enslaved country. Her known life is a rich tapestry of wife, widow, mother, queen and Celtic quasi-Goddess. But beneath this, lies a history both dark and shocking, with fresh archaeological evidence adding new depth and terrifying detail to the worn-out myths. From the proud warrior tribes of her East Anglian childhood to the battlefields of her defeat, this is a vividly written and



evocatively told story, bringing a wealth of new research and insight to bear on one of the key figures in British history and mythology.

Fatal Purity Robespierre and the French Revolution

Ruth SCURR 304pp Hb \$65.00 Sent to the guillotine where he had sent thousands ahead of him, Robespierre was only 36 when he died. Only a few months before, this pale and fragile man, formal, anxious to the point of paranoia and steeled by deeply held principles, had held centre place in the new 'Festival of the Supreme Being', wearing his sky-blue coat and decreeing a new religion for France. Robespierre

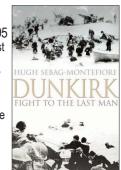


and the Revolution were inseparable, a single inflexible tyrant. But what turned a shy young lawyer into the living embodiment of the Terror at its most violent? Admirers called him "the great incorruptible", critics dubbed him a "bloodthirsty charlatan", even his friends found him hard to understand. Scurr sheds new light on this puzzle, tracing his life from a troubled childhood in provincial Arras to the passionate idealist he became, fighting for the rights of the people, and sweeping on to the implacable leader prepared to sign the death warrant for his closest friends. *due July*

Dunkirk

Fight to the Last Man

Hugh SEBAG-MONTEFIORE 720pp Hb \$59.95
Rescuing the British Army from Dunkirk was not just about what happened at sea and off the beaches.
This book tells the story of the officers and ordinary British and French soldiers who were ordered to hold a series of strong points inland, while their comrades were evacuated. They were to fight to the last man. The battle at Dunkirk would have turned out very differently if it were not for men such as Sergeant Major Gus Jennings of the Royal Warwickshire regiment, who died smothering a



German stick bomb in the church at Esquelbecq in an effort to save his comrades, and Captain Marcus Ervine-Andrews VC, who single-handedly held back a German attack on the Dunkirk perimeter, thereby allowing the British line to form up behind him. Using new material from British, French, Belgian, German, Russian and Czechoslovakian archives, and interviews with the last surviving witnesses of the Dunkirk campaign, Sebag-Montefiore at last tells the true story of how the British Army was really evacuated from Dunkirk and from France in 1940. due July

Reflected Light La Trobe Essays

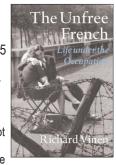
Peter BEILHARZ & Robert MANNE

300pp Pb \$29.95

La Trobe University has established a unique reputation in Australia for the grace of its writers and for its contribution to public debate. This book collects reflections, evocations, commentary, criticism and humour by leading writers with a connection to La Trobe. Carefully sequenced and highly readable, these essays throw reflected light on the past and future, on the locality and the wider world. *due July*

The Unfree French Life Under the Occupation

Richard VINEN 496pp Hb \$49.95
In the summer of 1940, the French army was one of
the largest and best in the world, confident of victory.
In the space of a few nightmarish weeks that all
changed as the French and their British allies were
crushed and eight million people fled their homes.
Vinen describes the consequences of that defeat, not
by looking at political leaders in Vichy or Paris or
London but rather at those who were caught up in the



daily horrors of war. He describes the fate of a French prisoner of war who was punished because he wrote a love letter to a German woman, and that of a French woman who gave birth to a German-fathered child as the Americans landed in Normandy. He asks why some gentile French people chose to risk imprisonment by wearing yellow stars and why a very Gaullist, Parisian girl was excited by the hostility of respectable French people when she pinned a German imperial eagle to her dress. He recounts the fate of a couple of estranged middle-aged Jews, separated by the mobilisation of 1939, who found themselves (in July 1942) on the same train to Auschwitz.

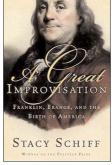
History

A Great Improvisation

Franklin, France, and the Birth of America

Stacy SCHIFF 512pp Pb \$27.00

"Yet another book on Benjamin Franklin would seem to be the last thing that anyone needs to cut down trees for right now, but this meticulously researched account captures a key moment in his history, and in ours, with verve, élan, and wit. Schiff concentrates on the years from 1776 to 1783, when, as the American commissioner in Paris, Franklin was charged with the tricky task of securing the support of monarchist France for a republican revolution. Schiff's Franklin is at once diplomat and flirt, scientist and

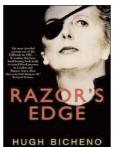


intriguer. She shows him, above all, as a man of immense resourcefulness who mixed an idiosyncratic cocktail of courage and cynical manipulation for the highest of national, and intellectual, ends." *The New Yorker*

Razor's Edge

The Unofficial History of the Falklands War

Hugh BICHENO 336pp Hb \$49.95
For five years before the Falklands War, Bicheno was one of the top British spies in Argentina. As such, he gathered hard, corroborated intelligence on Argentine intentions over the Falklands - which the British establishment then chose to ignore. There were three main players in the war, each of them trying to overcome their own cultural baggage. The Argentinians were riddled with guilt: after years of fighting a morally repugnant campaign against its



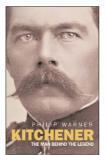
own people, the Argentine military saw a war for the Malvinas Islands as a perfect opportunity to win back their self-respect. The hands of the Americans were also bloody from the likewise dirty wars they had sponsored and abetted in Central America, involving first Argentine and later British mercenaries. (As a former mercenary in Central America, the author has first-hand knowledge of this too). For Britain, baffled by the parlous state of the country at the beginning of the 1980s, the defence of the Falklands was a gesture towards their long-gone imperial splendour. The incredible fact that they did not make a mess of it, like they had done with so much, is one of the central themes of the book.

Kitchener

The Man Behind the Legend

Philip WARNER

256pp Pb \$29.95
Kitchener was one of the most successful generals Britain
has ever had, and yet he has always been a mystery.
Legends proliferated about him in his lifetime and the
circumstances of his death have remained an enigma. Not
until recently, with the fresh material that has come to light,
has it been possible to find the real person behind that
enormous, intimidating moustache. In this absorbing study,
Warner shows us exactly what a debt Britain owes to



Kitchener. Far from being the remote, austere figure of the placards, he was a daring adventurer and spy, a meticulous planner and a commander who took his place at the front of the battle. He was trusted by civilians, worshipped by his men and detested by most of his officers. Warner had exclusive access to the papers of the Kitchener family and spoke to the few people still alive who knew the man personally. The result is the definitive biography of this most important, yet least known, of British generals.

Boy Soldiers of the Great War Their Own Stories for the First Time

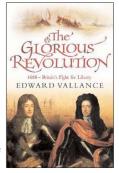
Richard VAN EMDEN 352pp Pb \$24.95 When war broke out in 1914, no one was more caught up in the popular tide of patriotism than the young boys who wanted to fight for King and country. This is their untold story - the heroics of boys aged as young as 13 who enlisted for full combat training. Meet, for example, Dick Trafford, who was gassed and wounded three times and went over the top with one eardrum burst by the noise of battle before he was just 16. At the time, their stories were buried in censorship and government control, but now the



last survivors - all of them over 100 years old - have their chance to hand down their stories of sacrifice and survival. Drawing on these unique testimonies, as well as diaries and letters, Van Emden makes this truly insightful investigation into the perennially affecting topic of children and war.

The Glorious Revolution 1688 and Britain's Fight for Liberty

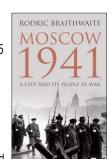
Edward VALLANCE 384pp Hb \$55.00 In 1688, a group of leading politicians invited the Dutch prince William of Orange over to England to challenge the rule of the catholic James II. When James's army deserted him, he fled to France, leaving the throne open to William and Mary. During the following year, a series of Bills were passed which many believe marked the triumph of constitutional monarchy as a system of government. Vallance challenges the view that it



was a bloodless coup in the name of progress and wonders whether in fact it created as many problems as it addressed. Certainly in Scotland and Ireland, the Revolution was characterised by warfare and massacre.

Moscow 1941 A City and its People at War

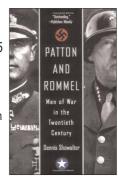
Rodric BRAITHWAITE 488pp Hb \$59.95 During the first half of 1941, Moscow and its people were living in relative peace in a world of war. In spite of the horrors of Stalinism, many ordinary people managed to find their own ways of enjoying themselves and when war surprised a country unprepared, thanks to Stalin's obduracy, most rose with enthusiasm to defend their country and their city. On 22 June, the Nazi armies invaded and raced



across the country. By the end of the year, they were held, finally, in the suburbs of Moscow. This book offers an unforgettable and richly illustrated narrative of the military action, telling portraits of Stalin and his generals, apparatchiks and great commanders. It also traces the stories of individuals, soldiers, politicians and intellectuals, writers, artists, dancers, workers, schoolchildren and peasants. The war remains a highly emotional matter for Russia and there are troubling questions like the role of Stalin or the appalling cost of victory. The book concludes with reflections on these issues.

Patton and Rommel Men of War in the Twentieth Century

Dennis SHOWALTER 441pp Tp \$29.95
General George Patton and General Erwin
Rommel served the US and Germany
respectively through two World Wars. Their
temperaments, both on and off the battlefield,
were overwhelmingly contrary, but their approach
to modern warfare was remarkably similar.
Showalter takes a provocative look at both
figures, intertwining the stories of the paths they
took and the decisions they made during the
course of WWII and compares the lives and



careers of two men whose military tactics redirected the course of history.

The Thirty-First of March

Horace BUSBY 272pp Pb \$41.00

"I have made up my mind. I can't get peace in Vietnam and be President too." So begins this posthumously discovered account of Lyndon Johnson's final days in office. This is an indelible portrait of a president and a presidency at a time of crisis, spanning 20 years of a close working and personal relationship between Johnson and Busby. It was Busby's job to "put a little Churchill" into Johnson's orations, and his skill earned him a position of trust from the earliest days of



Johnson's career as a congressman in Texas to the twilight of his presidency. From the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination, when Busby was asked by the newly sworn-in president to sit by his bedside during his first troubled nights in office, to the concerns that defined the Great Society, he not only articulated and refined Johnson's political thinking, he helped shape the most ambitious, far-reaching legislative agenda since FDR's New Deal. Here is Johnson the politician, Johnson the schemer, Johnson who advised against JFK riding in an open limousine that fateful day in Dallas, and Johnson the father, sickened by the men fighting and dying in Vietnam on his behalf.

History

The Battle for Spain The Spanish Civil War 1936-1939

Antony BEEVOR 568pp Hb \$59.95 The civil war that tore Spain apart from 1936 to 1939, attracting liberals and socialists from across the world to support the cause against Franco, was one of the most hard-fought conflicts of the 20th century. It was a war of atrocities, political genocide and a military testing ground before WWII for the Russians, Italians and Germans, whose Condor Legion so notoriously destroyed Guernica. This was Beevor's first work of non-fiction, pre-dating

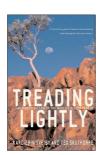


his bestselling Stalingrad and Berlin: The Downfall (both Pb \$35). Now, more than 20 years later, he has substantially rewritten it, drawing on masses of newly-discovered material from the Spanish, Russian and German archives. He outlines the origins of the Civil War, the coup d'etat in July 1936 and the savage fighting of the next three years, which ended in catastrophic defeat for the Republicans in 1939. He unravels the complex political and regional forces that played such an important part in the origins and history of the war. due July

Treading Lightly

The Hidden Wisdom of the World's Oldest People

Karl-Erik SVEIBY & Tex SKUTHORPE 262pp Tp \$35.00 We are consuming more than our earth can provide. In Australia, cities and towns struggle to maintain a reliable water supply, climate change triggers droughts which devastate farmland, and fish stocks are running low. It is increasingly clear that we are heading towards collapse if we don't change direction. Aboriginal people taught themselves thousands of years ago how to live sustainably in Australia's fragile landscape. A Scandinavian knowledge management professor meets an Aboriginal cultural



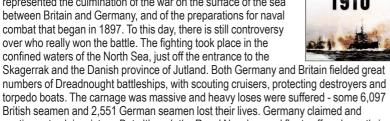
THE BATTLE OF

custodian and dares to ask the simple, but vital, question: what can we learn from the traditional Aboriginal lifestyle to create a sustainable society in modern Australia? The authors show how traditional Aboriginal stories and paintings were used to convey knowledge from one generation to the next, about the environment, law and relationships. They reveal the hidden art of four-level storytelling and discuss how the stories, and the way they were used, formed the basis for a sustainable society. They also explain ecological farming methods, and how the Aboriginal style of leadership created resilient societies.

The Battle of Jutland 1916

George BONNEY 256pp Hb \$45.00 The Battle of Jutland was the greatest naval battle of WWI and it represented the culmination of the war on the surface of the sea

between Britain and Germany, and of the preparations for naval combat that began in 1897. To this day, there is still controversy over who really won the battle. The fighting took place in the confined waters of the North Sea, just off the entrance to the

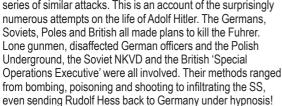


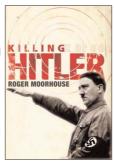
British seamen and 2,551 German seamen lost their lives. Germany claimed and continues to claim victory. But although the Royal Navy's grand fleet suffered greatly in terms of ships and men lost, the net result was that, for the rest of the war, the German High Seas Fleet ceased to be a threat to Allied surface shipping. Lavishly illustrated with archive photographs and paintings, this book presents the Jutland story in an engaging and accessible style.

Killing Hitler

The Third Reich and the Plots Against the Fuhrer

Roger MOORHOUSE 320pp Hb \$59.95 Most people have heard of the Stauffenberg Plot - launched by the German Resistance Movement on 20 July 1944 to kill Hitler. But it is not widely known that this was only one of a long series of similar attacks. This is an account of the surprisingly numerous attempts on the life of Adolf Hitler. The Germans, Soviets, Poles and British all made plans to kill the Fuhrer.

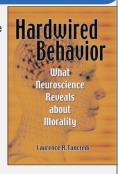




Many plans did not make it past the drawing board, while some were carried out. All of them failed. Alongside the dramatic and largely unknown stories of Hitler's numerous assassins, this book presents a fascinating investigation of a number of broader issues, such as the complex motives of the German Resistance, the curious squeamishness of the British, and the effectiveness of the Nazi security apparatus.

From the Academic Presses

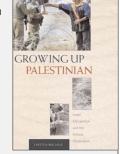
Hardwired Behavior (240pp Hb \$55.00) by Laurence Tancredi explores the impact of neuroscience research over the past 20 or more years on brain function as it affects moral decisions. The findings show that the mind and brain are very close, if not the same, and that the brain 'makes' the mind. We are discovering that the physical features of the brain play the major role in shaping our thoughts and emotions, including the way we deal with 'moral' issues.



The Cambridge History of Christianity: World Christianities c1914-c2000 (736pp Hb \$325.00) edited by Hugh McLeod provides

a comprehensive history of Catholicism, Protestantism and Independent Churches in all parts of the world in the century when Christianity truly became a global religion.

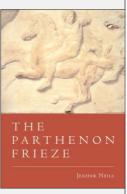
Growing Up Palestinian (172pp Pb \$37) by Laettita Bucaille tells the inside story of three young men caught up in the Palestinian Intifada. Through their stories, the tangled and tragic web of the past 20 years of the most enduring conflict in the Middle East unfolds before us.



A History of Modern Libya (274pp Pb \$43.95) by Dirk Vandewalle offers a lucid

account of Libya's past and corrects some of the misunderstandings about its present. The author takes the story from the 1900s, through the Italian occupation, the Sanusi monarchy and Gaddafi's selfstyled revolution. The final chapter is devoted to the events that brought Libya back into the international fold.

The Parthenon Frieze (288pp Pb \$49.95) by Jenifer Neils provides an indepth examination of the frieze, which decodes its visual language, but also analyses its conception and design, style, content and impact on the visual arts over time. Unique in its wideranging approach, this book also brings ethical reasoning to bear on the issue of repatriation, as part of the ongoing debate on the Elgin Marbles. It also comes with a CD-ROM, which provides a 'virtual tour' of the entire frieze.

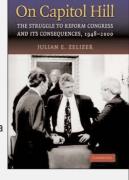


The Oxford Companion to the

Brontes (586pp Pb \$46.95) provides comprehensive, authoritative and up-to-date information on the lives, works and legacies of the three Bronte sisters. In-depth surveys of the Brontes' lives and works are supplemented by entries on their friends and acquaintances, pets, literary and political heroes and on their letters, drawings and

paintings. There is also extensive coverage of their juvenilia, as well as entries on sequels and adaptations in film, theatre and TV.

On Capitol Hill (376pp Pb \$39.95) by Julian Zelizer offers the first major history of the demise of the committeeera Congress and the rise of the contemporary legislative branch. This book tackles one of the most enduring political challenges in America: barring a wholesale revolution, how can representative democracy be improved to best fulfil the promises of the



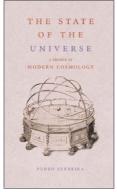
The Western Medical Tradition: 1800-2000 (628pp Pb \$49.95) by William Bynum et al is a detailed and authoritative account of the last two centuries of the development of 'Western' medicine, a tradition now important everywhere in the world. It is a new account, written by leading experts who describe the most important people, events and transformations, and give explanations for why medicine developed as it did, becoming as important as it has in the modern

Science

The State of the Universe A Primer in Modern Cosmology

Pedro FERREIRA 320pp Hb \$49.95

Today's model of an expanding Universe - the big bang cosmology - is actually built on principles derived from a few simple mathematical equations. Gravity-warped spacetime, quantum mechanics, the physics of the subatomic - these crucial insights, stemming from Einstein's revolutionary theories of relativity, have led to a simple and elegant framework within which the whole of the Universe, over billions of years, has been described. But recent evidence has begun to make wrinkles in the neat fabric of the big bang cosmology. There is now overwhelming evidence that there is far more stuff in the Universe than we

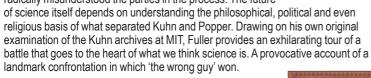


can see. What, and where, is this 'dark matter'? And it now appears that the expansion of the Universe is accelerating: something out there - some exotic 'dark energy' - is acting against gravity to push space and time apart. While offering a critical view of how all the pieces in our current model fit together, Ferreira argues that Einstein's Universe may be just another stepping stone towards a new, more profound and effective cosmology in the future.

Kuhn Vs. Popper The Struggle for the Soul of Science

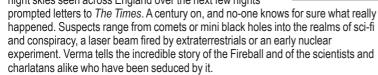
Steve FULLER

Thomas Kuhn and Karl Popper - a young historian and an old philosopher - met just once to discuss the nature of science. Yet for the last half-century, Kuhn's triumph has dominated public discussions on the topic. But could the million copies sold of his **The Structure of Scientific Revolutions** (Pb \$29.00) betray an error in collective judgement? Fuller says yes, not only have we judged wrongly, but we have also radically misunderstood the parties in the process. The future





Surendra VERMA 272pp Pb \$19.95 At 7.14 am on 30 June 1908, a huge fireball exploded in the Siberian sky. 1,000 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb, it flattened an area of remote Tunguska forest bigger than Greater London, forming a mushroom cloud that almost reached into space. 600 kilometres away, the Trans-Siberian Express rattled wildly on its newly built tracks. Tremors registered in distant St Petersburg, and the unusually bright night skies seen across England over the next few nights

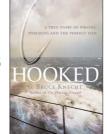


Hooked

A True Story of Pirates, Poaching and the Perfect Fish

G Bruce KNECHT 245pp Tp \$29.95

On 7 August 2003, the patrol boat Southern Supporter came upon the Uruguayan long-liner Viarsa in one of the most isolated places on earth - the Australian Fishing Zone near Heard Island, 2,200 nautical miles southwest of Perth. The patrol suspected Viarsa was carrying an illegal catch of the

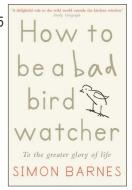


endangered Patagonian Toothfish. Thus began one of the longest and most dangerous pursuits in maritime history, lasting 21 days and covering 3,900 nautical miles through unimaginably rough seas. Hampered by snowstorms, icebergs and the Roaring Forties, the crews pushed their ships to the limit. Why was this fish so important that it was worth risking disaster? Knecht, author of **The Proving Ground** (Pb \$27.95) - the definitive account of the 1998 Sydney to Hobart race disaster - has brought this great modern sea story to life after extensive interviews with both the pursuers and the pursued. Behind the chase and the subsequent legal battles lies the strange story of the Patagonian Toothfish, only recently brought to the ocean surface from its deep-sea habitats. Popularised in America's most exclusive restaurants, it now faces an uncertain future.

How to be a Bad Birdwatcher

To the Greater Glory of Life

Simon BARNES 208pp Pb \$22.95
Barnes shows us why birdwatching is not the preserve of twitchers, but one of the simplest, cheapest and most rewarding pastimes around. Look out of the window. See a bird. Enjoy it. Congratulations. You are now a bad birdwatcher. Anyone who has ever gazed up at the sky or stared out of the window knows something about birds. In this funny, inspiring, eye-opening book, Barnes paints a riveting picture of how birdwatching has framed his life and can help us all to better understand our place on this planet.



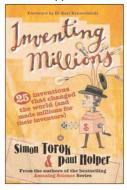
Inventing Millions

25 Inventions that Changed the World (and Made Millions for their Inventors)

Simon TOROK & Paul HOLPER Innovation, discovery, science and technology have transformed millions of people's lives for the better. The authors discover the amazing stories behind some of those little (and big) things we just can't imagine not having in our modern lives - from the revolution of the mobile phone to the limitless possibilities of nanotechnology. Be inspired by the perspicacity of the amazing inventors whose ideas, accidents and even failures have changed the world we live in. Their stories are sure to inspire you to invent your own gadget, thingamajig or doodad

that might also make you a million, or two! due July

256pp Pb \$24.95



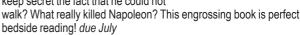
More

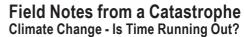
Mere Mortals

More Mere Mortals

Further Historical Maladies and Medical Mysteries of the Rich and Famous

Jim LEAVESLEY 356pp Hb \$32.95 Following Mere Mortals (Pb \$29.95), this is a gripping compilation of the medical misfortunes of more than 30 well-known characters from history. Find out the answers to these fascinating questions: Did Henry VIII actually have syphilis? Why did Rasputin take so long to die? Was George III as mad as they all said he was? How did Franklin D Roosevelt manage to keep secret the fact that he could not





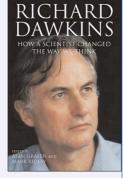
Elizabeth KOLBERT 224pp Hb \$39.95 In writing that is both clear and unbiased, Kolbert - an acclaimed New Yorker journalist - approaches global warming from every angle. She travels to the Arctic, the north of England, Holland and Puerto Rico, interviews researchers and environmentalists and presents the personal tales of those who are being affected most - the people who make their homes near the poles and, in an eerie foreshadowing, are watching their worlds disappear. Scientists have been warning the world since the late 1970s that the build-up of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere threatens to melt the polar ice sheets and irreversibly change our climate. With little done since then to alter this dangerous course, now is the moment for all countries, but perhaps especially the USA, to face up to the realities of global warming and to secure our future. By the end of the century, the world will probably be hotter than it has been in the last two million years, and the sweeping consequences of this change will determine the future of life on earth.

due July

Briefly noted...

Richard Dawkins: How a Scientist Changed the Way We Think

edited by Alan Grafen & Mark Ridley (Hb \$42.95), has been published to coincide with the 30th anniversary edition of **The Selfish Gene** (Pb \$29.95). This sparkling collection explores the impact of Richard Dawkins as scientist, rationalist, and one of the most important thinkers alive today. Specially commissioned pieces by leading figures in science, philosophy, literature and the media, such as Daniel Dennett, Matt Ridley, Steven Pinker, Philip Pullman and the Bishop of Oxford, highlight the breadth and range of Dawkins' influence on modern science and



BINARY

culture - from the gene's eye view of evolution to his energetic engagement in public debates on science, rationalism, and religion.

Two new books on symmetry in mathematics are Mario Livio's **The Equation that Couldn't be Solved** (353pp Hb \$44.95) and **Fearless Symmetry** (272pp Hb \$54) by Avner Ash and Robert Gross. The first tells the story of how group theory - the 'language' of symmetry - emerged from the work of Niels Henrik Abel and Évariste Galois in their attempts to solve the quintic equation. The second focuses on how mathematicians solve equations and prove theorems. It discusses rules of mathematics and why they are just as important as the rules in any game we play.

The Binary Revolution (304pp Hb \$55) by Neil Barrett tells the significant story of the development of the modern computer, from its earliest beginnings in the traditional abacus, via Charles Babbage's Difference Engine to the contemporary wonders of the digital revolution and the World Wide Web.

George Pendle's **Strange Angel** (350pp Pb \$24.95) is a detailed and very readable account of

the life of John Parsons, a maverick racketeer whose work helped transform the rocket from a sci-fi plotline to reality. After his untimely death in 1952, it was revealed that Parsons had been heavily involved in the occult as a follower of Aleister Crowley.

In **Seed to Seed** (309pp Hb \$45), Nicholas Harberd uses a narrative of the seasons of 2004 to relate the life history of thale-cress, the fruit-fly of the plant world. He describes both what can be seen with the naked eye and the hidden molecular mechanisms that underlie the visible events in the plant's life. He also tells the story of the last 10 years of scientific

discovery in his own laboratory, as the team works to understand the genetic control of the growth of thale-cress.

Darwinian Fairytales (345pp Hb \$49.95) by David Stove is a critique of Darwinism as applied to humans. He doesn't say that Darwinism isn't relevant to other organisms, nor does he say anything about the origins of homo sapiens (he is totally uninterested in the subject; he just has a major problem with people who say that natural selection is going on within our species now). He also takes aim at socio-biology, Richard Dawkins and Edward O Wilson.

Speaking of Edward O Wilson, his latest book is **Nature Revealed: Selected Writings**, **1949-2006** (719pp Hb \$68), in which he explores topics as diverse as slavery in ants, the genetic basis of societal structure, the discovery of the taxon cycle and the conservation of life's diversity.

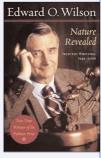




The story of Mary Anning, the pioneering palaeontologist and

discoverer of Ichhthyosaurs and Plesiosaurs (who made the mistake of being a woman in 19th century England!) is told in **Jurassic Mary** (238pp Hb \$50) by Patricia Pierce.

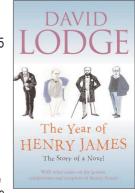
DARWINIAN FAIRYTALES OUT THE PROPERTY OF THE



Miscellaneous

The Year of Henry James The Story of a Novel

David LODGE 240pp Hb \$62.95
The first part of this book has Lodge retracing his steps with regard to the writing of his recent novel about Henry James, **Author Author** (Pb \$22.95) from the first idea in his notebook and through the process of research and writing to the publication and reception of the finished book. His novel was adversely affected by the appearance of several others on the same subject, also published that year. He says the ironic consequences were such that James himself might have invented them! The essays of the second part of the book are about the



LEWIS

WOLPERT

Six Impossible

Things Before

Breakfast

The Evolutionary Origins of Belief

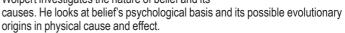
genesis, composition and reception of works by other novelists, including J M Coetzee and Umberto Eco. Collectively, the contents of Lodge's new work place the novel under a different microscope, illuminating it as both a work of art and a commodity.

Cara

Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast

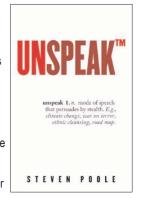
The Evolutionary Origins of Belief

Lewis WOLPERT 288pp Hb \$35.00 Why do 70% of Americans believe in angels, and thousands believe they have been abducted by aliens? Why does every society around the world have a religious tradition of some sort? What makes people believe in things when all the evidence points to the contrary? Why do 13% of British scientists touch wood? In **Through the Looking Glass**, the White Queen tells Alice that to believe in a wildly improbable fact she simply needs to "draw a long breath and shut your eyes". Alice finds this advice ridiculous. But don't almost all of us, at some time or another, engage in magical thinking? Wolpert investigates the nature of belief and its





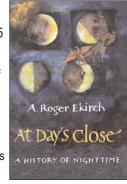
Steven POOLE 288pp Hb \$35.00 'Unspeak' is language as a weapon. Every day, we are bombarded with those apparently simple words or phrases that actually conceal darker meanings. 'Climate change' is less threatening than 'global warming'. 'Ethnic cleansing' sounds less shocking than 'mass murder'. 'Operation Iraqi Freedom' did more than put a positive spin on the American war with Iraq; it gave the invasion such a likeable phrase that the US news networks quickly adopted it as their reporting tagline. By repackaging the language, we use to describe international affairs or domestic politics, controversial issues become



unspeakable and, therefore, unquestionable. In this astounding book, Poole traces the globalising wave of modern 'unspeak' from culture wars to the culture of war and reveals how everyday words are changing the way we think.

At Day's Close A History of Nighttime

A Roger EKIRCH 480pp Pb \$22.95 Ekirch charts a fresh realm of Western culture, nocturnal life from the late medieval period to the Industrial revolution. He focuses on the cadences of daily life, investigating nighttime in its own right and resurrecting a rich and complex universe in which persons passed nearly half of their lives - a world, long-lost to historians, of blanket fairs, night freaks and curtain lectures, of sun-suckers, moon-cursers and night-kings. Ekirch uses a wide range of sources to reconstruct how the night was lived in the past: travel accounts, memoirs, letters, poems, plays,



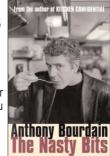
court records, coroner's reports, depositions and laws dealing with curfews, crime and lighting. He has analysed working-class autobiographies, proverbs, nursery rhymes, ballads and sermons, and folklore, as well as consulting medical, psychological and anthropological papers.

Dave

Miscellaneous

The Nasty Bits

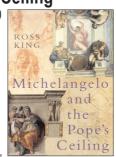
Anthony BOURDAIN 304pp Pb \$24.95 For all those Bourdain fans who are hungering for more, here is a collection of his journalism. As usual, he serves up a well-seasoned hell-broth of candid, often outrageous, stories from his worldwide misadventures. Whether scrounging for eel in the backstreets of Hanoi, revealing what you didn't want to know about the more unglamorous aspects of making television, calling for the head of raw food activist Woody Harrelson, or confessing to lobster-killing guilt, Bourdain is as



entertaining as ever. A rude, funny, brutal and passionate stew for fans and the uninitiated alike.

Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling

384pp Pb \$25.00 In 1508, Pope Julius II commissioned Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. He had been advised against doing so. The painting of the vaults was so difficult and Michelangelo so inexperienced in fresco that it was considered a folly. Indeed, Michelangelo himself was reluctant. He considered himself primarily a sculptor, rather than a painter. However, for the next four years, he laboured over the vast ceiling, at first employing assistants,



later working alone, spending back-breaking hours with his face turned upwards. Battling ill health, financial difficulties, domestic problems and inadequate knowledge of the art of fresco, Michelangelo created figures so beautiful that, when they were unveiled in 1512, onlookers were simply stunned. Modern anatomy has yet to find names for some of the muscles on his nudes, they are painted in such detail. "There is no other work to compare with this for excellence, nor could there be," wrote Vasari in his Lives of Artists (Pb \$14.95).

Albert Tucker

Gavin FRY

252pp Hb \$120

Another of the beautiful monographs from Beagle Press, this time concentrating on one of our more tortured artists and his output. This excellent text provides background and valuable interpretation, but the true glory is in the close-to-perfect, full-colour reproductions. A must-have for any admirer of Tucker's work.

Key Words in Australian Politics

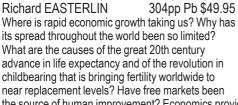
Rodney SMITH et al

256pp Pb \$39.95

This book has been written for general audiences to understand the meanings of the key terms in contemporary Australian politics that are often used without explanation in the media and public debate. The keywords cover the Australian political institutions and processes, practices and behaviour, ideologies and movements, and cultural, social and economic forces that affect politics, Australia's international relations and general frameworks for understanding Australian politics.

The Reluctant Economist Perspectives on Economics, **Economic History and Demography**

Richard EASTERLIN





the source of human improvement? Economics provides a start on these questions, but only a start, argues the author. To answer them calls for merging economics with concepts and data from other social sciences, and with quantitative and qualitative history.



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!

Waiting for Beckett...

2006 is the centenary of Samuel Beckett's birth and here are two new publications for all you Beckett fans. The Grove Centenary Editions of Samuel Beckett, Boxed Set (Hb \$185) edited by Paul Auster has two volumes of novels, one of dramatic works and one containing his poems, short fiction and criticism. These volumes have been specially bound with covers featuring images central to Beckett's works.

Also new is Becket Remembering: Remembering Beckett: Uncollected Interviews with Samuel Beckett and Memories of Those Who Knew Him

(336pp Hb \$59.95) edited by James and Elizabeth Knowlson. In the first part of the book, Beckett talks about his family, his early youth, his friendship with James Joyce and his Resistance work in Paris, when he was forced to flee from the Gestapo and live out the remaining years of the war in the Vaucluse region of southern France. In the second part, some of Beckett's closest friends remember him as a schoolboy, as a struggling writer, and then as an international success in the 1950s with his novels and plays, including the famous Waiting for Godot (Pb \$19.95).



Religion

Conviction and Conflict Islam, Christianity and World Order

Michael NAZIR-ALI 256pp Pb \$44.95 Christians of all denominations - as well as non-

Christians - look to Bishop Nazir-Ali as an authority on the role of religion in conflict and peace-making. Here he gets to the roots of such conflict. Coming from a family that is both Christian and Muslim, he is well qualified to tackle the subject of the role of religion in society and, especially, the relationship of religion to conflict. This is



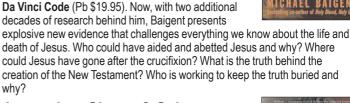
perhaps the key issue in international affairs today. The bishop considers the nature of dialogue in the light of the history of relations between people of different faiths, particularly Muslims and Christians. He has a special concern for the relationship of religion to the state, to law and to the justifiability of armed conflict. He argues for a wider exchange between cultures and countries, but always with a respect for the integrity of religions and cultures, especially of Islam and Christianity.

The Jesus Papers

Exposing the Greatest Cover-up in History

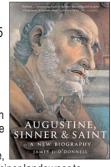
Michael BAIGENT 336pp Tp \$32.95 20 years ago, Baigent and his colleagues stunned the world with a controversial theory - that Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene married and founded a holy bloodline. His bestselling book, Holy Blood and the Holy Grail (Pb \$27.95) became an international publishing phenomenon and was one of the sources for Dan Brown's novel The

explosive new evidence that challenges everything we know about the life and death of Jesus. Who could have aided and abetted Jesus and why? Where could Jesus have gone after the crucifixion? What is the truth behind the creation of the New Testament? Who is working to keep the truth buried and



Augustine, Sinner & Saint

James O'DONNELL 448pp Tp \$29.95 Nearly 1,600 years after his death, Augustine's masterwork, Confessions (Pb \$12.95), continues to be read by an astonishing variety of people. The stories of his life resonate deeply across all kinds of borders. Born in Algeria in 354AD, this trail-blazing churchman towers over the landscapes of Western cultures. He invented sin almost single-handedly. He is responsible for many of the ways in which we think about gods, religion, politics and



psychology. What strength of character and twists of fate, or perhaps 'predestination', propelled the poor son of a minor landowner to become a powerful leader and eloquent shaper of affairs in his own time? Beyond dogma, what is Augustine's legacy for global history?

News from Eve Abbey

The Miles Franklin Award for 2006 has been decided (see front page). As one of the judges, together with Professor Robert Dixon, Ian Hicks and Morag Fraser, I can tell you that the final choice was very, very close, but we were unanimous in our decision. We kept strictly to the terms of Miles Franklin's will, which says the award should go to a work "of the highest literary merit and which presents Australian life in any of its phases".

I found a nice surprise in Hardback Classics - on the top shelf, because they are very large books! They are facsimile editions of the 1930s sensation, the *Nonesuch Dickens*. Nonesuch Press was already admired for the quality of its publications, but their 1937 publication of *The Complete Works of Dickens* was a lavish edition using the original typeface designed by Francis Meynell. It was deemed a triumph of the bookmaker's art. Dickens paid great attention to the details of how his work was produced, but this spirit was not well served after his death, so the Dickens Fellowship wholeheartedly supported the project. The beautiful *Nonesuch Dickens*, especially the subscribed First Editions, each of which contained one of the original plates, became admired collectors' items.

Duckworth in the UK and Overlook in the US are both now issuing facsimile editions. Thanks to modern technology, these can now be produced much cheaper than the original editions. This project will take four years, but six volumes are available now: Bleak House, Christmas Books, David Copperfield, Great Expectations (together with Hard Times), Nicholas Nickleby and Oliver Twist. Only \$69.95 each, which is very good value. Quarter-bound, gold-blocked with an embossed leather panel on the spine and front board, full cloth sides, ribbon marker, head and tail bands, sewn sections and printed on special cream paper. Lovely!

Just alongside these treasures, I found an edition of **Jane Austen: The Complete Novels** (\$59.95 Hb 720pp), which is amazing value and nice to hold. This is the *Collector's Library* edition with gilt edges, sewn binding, marble end papers, <u>double-column</u> format with nice clear print on cream paper and b&w illustrations by Hugh Thomson. Again, excellent value for six great novels.

Also in Hardback Classics are *The Modern Library* and *Everyman Library* editions of modern classics, which are great value. Many are only \$32.95 Hardback, which compares very well with the Trade Paperback price of new fiction.

I haven't reminded you lately of the endless variety and depth in our row of paperback Classics. It was a coincidence that, after finding Jane Austen's Complete Novels, I soon found myself shelving **A Memoir of Jane Austen and Other Family Recollections** by J E Austen-Leigh in *Oxford World's Classics* (\$14.95 Pb 276pp incl index, followed by several pages listing some of the other delights published in this series). Introduction and notes by Kathryn Sutherland, plus bibliography, chronology, family tree and notes

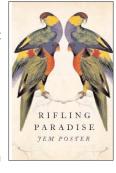
Some other unusual items in this row are a contemporary prose rendering by W S Merwin of **Song of Roland** about the chivalric life of France during the reign of Charlemagne (\$17.95 Pb) and **Life of Saint Columba** by St Adomnan of Iona (the Founding Father of the famous monastery), which is a major work of Celtic Christianity and of early Irish or Scottish history (\$22.95 Pb 406pp incl index).

There are many treasures in this row, books you won't often find elsewhere. One Sunday recently, a customer had despaired of finding any books by Kipling, but we had several editions of his work in stock. I have fond memories of H G Wells' **A Short History of the World** (\$22.95 371pp incl biographical essay and reading list). This was the only book I had with me when I was marooned for months in Spain many years ago, so I read it several times! It only goes up to WWI, but it is fun to read.

Many titles in the Classics row could be shelved elsewhere, such as Rousseau or Machiavelli or Voltaire, which might be in Philosophy, or Gregory of Tours' **History of the Franks** (\$22.95 Pb 710pp incl index), which might be in Medieval History.

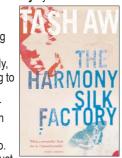
Talking of the problem of how to classify a title, what about **Poverty and Charity in the Jewish Community of Medieval Egypt** by Mark Cohen (\$68 Hb 288pp incl index). What was life like? Both from the viewpoint of the poor and those who provided for them? We could put this in Egyptology or Medieval History, but instead have it in Jewish Studies.

I'll say more about the *Miles Franklin* winner next month, but in the meantime I read a book by an English visitor which might well have been an entrant if he had been an Australian. This was Jem Poster's **Rifling Paradise** (\$32.95 Pb 324pp), set in the Blue Mountains, I guess in the middle of the 19th century. It concerns the activities of a minor English landowner who comes to Sydney to escape a few indiscretions and with a vain dream of exploration and discovery. It's a spooky thriller with good characters – almost gothic – but I don't think it quite comes off. However, I can recommend it to you as an unusual book. (It's in Fiction, not Australian Fiction).



Someone recently gave me a book. That was brave, wasn't it? But it's turned out to be a marvellous choice - **The Harmony Silk Factory** by Tash Aw

(\$22.95 Pb 362pp), which won the 2005 Whitbread First Novel Award. The author is a young Malaysian man now living in London. His subtle and engrossing book is set in Malaya in the 1940s as the Japanese invade. He speaks Rashomon-like, very successfully, in several voices – the voice of the young man trying to discover what his famous and notorious father was really like; the voice of the beautiful Chinese mother who died in childbirth; the voice of the Englishman in love with the romance tropics who loved the mother years ago. Nothing is absolutely clear. And rightly so. Do read it. Find it in Fiction (under T, not A). And I must



remind you again of another book set in Malaya which includes this period, **The Glass Palace** by Amitav Ghosh (\$22.95 Pb). A saga about colonialism from the point of view of those being colonised!

Here's a title in Biography for a special taste. If you enjoyed **Alan Clark's Diaries** (and enjoyed the TV series, even if John Hurt is not so handsome), take a look at **The Year of the Jouncer** (\$39.95 Hb 277pp), which is a year in the life of that very prolific writer and man of theatre, Simon Gray, perhaps best known for his plays and films which included *Butley* and *A Month in the Country* and more recently *Old Masters*, produced by his good friend Harold Pinter. Funny, serious and compassionate. They seem to spend an awful lot of time in Barbados. 'Jouncer' is a funny word, it seems to be one he made up to describe how, as a baby, he managed to move his pram around the garden (by bouncing and jumping?).

Despite my lack of scientific credentials, one of my favourite sections is Science: History & Biography. While shelving last week, I found a fascinating book from Cambridge University Press, and I confess I first noticed it because it is such a very nice production. It is **Playfair's Commercial and Political Atlas and Statistical Breviary** (\$75 Hb) published between 1786 and 1801. For people working with the visual communication of data, Playfair is the 'bible' often cited, but seldom read, mainly because most remaining copies are held in rare book libraries or private collections. Cambridge University Press has done a great service in making Playfair's words and charts available to the lucky people today who have a computer to do their bidding. Edited by Howard Wainer and Ian Spence, who provide a fascinating introduction and information about the remarkable life of William Playfair. Maybe some of our mathematical gurus should migrate down the Science row and take a look at this.

If you're going to attend the Opera Australia production of *Batavia* due in Sydney this year, I recommend you read an excellent account of the wreck of the *Batavia*. This is **Batavia's Graveyard: The True Story of the Mad Heretic Who Led History's Bloodiest Mutiny** by Mike Dash (\$22.95 Pb 446pp incl index). Find it in Australian History. It will help you appreciate this marvellous modern opera (which I've seen in Perth already) and it's also a thrilling historical story written with great verve about the wreck in 1628 of this Dutch East India ship on the Abrolhos Islands off the coast of WA. On checking my copy, I found that Mike Dash has written two other successful historical books, **Tulipomania: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower and the Passions it Aroused** (\$24.95 Pb), which you will find in History: Northern Europe, and Thug (\$49.95 Hb 356pp incl index), about the deadly, friendly, murderous gangs in India, especially in the early 19th century, which you will find in History: Modern India. The paperback of **Thug** (\$27.95) is due soon.

Take Care, Eve

 $\mathcal{E}\nu e$

Abbey's Bestsellers: June 2006

- 1 Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky (Tp \$32.95)
- March by Geraldine Brooks (Pb \$22.95) 2
- Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro (Pb \$22.95)
- 4 The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown (Pb \$19.95)
- The Secret River by Kate Grenville (Tp \$29.95)
- Swallow the Air by Tara June Winch (Hb \$28.00) 6
- Everyman by Philip Roth (Hb \$29.95)
- Madonna of the Eucalypts by Karen Sparnon (Pb \$22.95) 8
- 9 Arthur and George by Julian Barnes (Pb \$23.95)
- **10 Digging to America** by Anne Tyler (Tp \$32.95)

Code Green: **Experiences of a Lifetime**

224pp Pb \$24.95 Lonely Planet An entertaining and practical approach

to sustainable travel, this book highlights some of the amazing places to go that will provide a positive impact on traveller and

environment.



Non-Fiction

- Spotless: How to Get Stains, Scratches and Smells out of Almost Anything by Shannon Lush & Jennifer Fleming (Pb \$19.95)
- Failed States: The Abuse of Power and the Assault on Democracy by Noam Chomsky (Pb \$24.95)
- The Architecture of Happiness by Alain de Botton (Hb \$39.95)
- The Undercover Economist by Tim Harford (Tp \$32.95)
- Packer's Lunch by Niel Chenoweth (Hb \$45.00) 5
- 6 The Longest Decade by George Megalogenis (Tp \$32.95)
- Brave New Workplace: How Individual Contracts are Changing Our Jobs by David Peetz (Pb \$29.95) 7
- The Great Transformation: The World in the Time of Buddha, Socrates, Confucius and Jeremiah by Karen Armstrong (Tp \$32.95)
- The World is Flat by Thomas Friedman (Pb \$26.95)
- 10 A History of New South Wales by Beverley Kingston (Pb \$36.95)

Now in Paperback

1776: America and Britain at War by David McCullough \$26.95

America's most acclaimed historian presents the intricate story of the year of the birth of the USA. Here are two gripping stories: how a group of squabbling, disparate colonies became the United States, and how the British Empire tried to stop them. A story with a cast of amazing characters, from George III to George Washington, and to soldiers and their families, this exhilarating book is one of the great pieces of historical narrative.

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon \$24.95

A stunning literary thriller in the tradition of Umberto Eco. The discovery of a forgotten book leads to a hunt for an elusive author who may or may not still be alive...

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