

ABBHEY'S ADVOCATE

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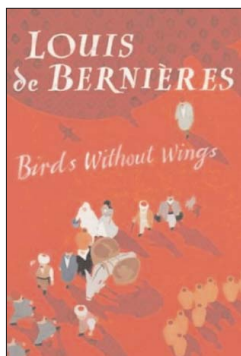
books@abbeyes.com.au

Birds Without Wings

Louis de BERNIERES

640pp Hb \$49.95

This is the tale of a small coastal town and its inhabitants in South West Anatolia during the decline of the Ottoman empire. Iskander the Potter and fount of proverbial wisdom; Philothei, a Christian girl of legendary beauty who is courted almost from infancy by Ibrahim the Goatherd, their great love culminating in tragedy and madness; Karatavuk and Mehmetcik, childhood friends who play in the hills above the town, Mehmetcik teaching the illiterate Karatavuk how to write Turkish in Greek letters; the two holy men of different faiths, Father Kristoforos and Abdulhamid Hodja, who greet each other with the words "infidel efendi"; the landlord Rustem Bey, his wife's adultery and stoning, and his journey to Istanbul in search of a Circassian mistress. It tells also of Mustafa Kemal, the man of destiny, who by virtue of military genius and sheer bloody-mindedness defeats the Franks and reshapes the whole region in his image. When jihad is declared against the Allies, the young men of the town are sent to war and, as the world intrudes, the twin scourges of religion and nationalism lead to forced marches and massacres. While hunger grips the town, the peaceful fabric of life is destroyed. Epic, yet profoundly humane, this is a glorious novel.

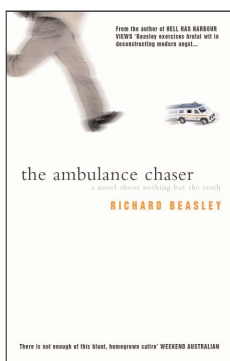


The Ambulance Chaser

Richard BEASLEY

368pp Tp \$30.00

Insurance companies exist to help you. Politicians are competent, hard working and devoted to public service. If you believe either of the above, you've never lived in the real world. At least, that's the view of Christopher Blake. Of course, Chris is what people call an 'ambulance chaser', so what would he know? Too much, according to the Bar Association, so they have just struck him off. Far too little, according to his girlfriend, who has delivered her own judgment on him, in the most painfully obvious way, on New Year's Eve. After 12 years as a human rights lawyer, Chris is now bankrupt, and the only work he can get is giving pro bono advice at a legal centre on how to sue a cat. In desperation, he takes on a new job with the world's fastest-growing insurance company - a place where injured plaintiffs should just stop moaning and die. Which, Chris notices, they happen to be doing at an alarming rate, so he decides to conduct his own investigation. This is a brilliantly funny tale of what can happen when a corporation breaches capitalism's golden rule - never employ an honest lawyer.



BOOKS ALIVE 31 JULY - 15 AUGUST

Buy any book from a participating bookstore from Saturday 31 July through Sunday 15 August and you'll be able to take home one of these bestselling books for just \$5.00:

Au Revoir by Mary Moody is the story of Moody's solo journey to the Lot, one of the most remote and beautiful parts of southwest France.

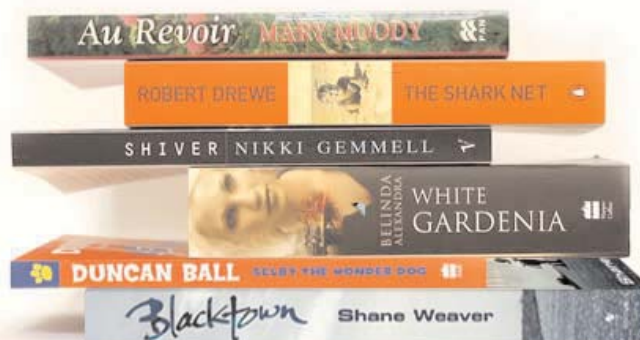
The Shark Net by Robert Drewe is a vibrant and haunting memoir that reaches beyond the dark recesses of murder and chaos to encompass their ordinary suburban backdrop.

Shiver by Nikki Gemmell, the author's first novel, delves into the emotional depth of love and loss and is set in the wilderness of Antarctica.

White Gardenia by Belinda Alexandra tells the story of a White Russian mother and daughter whose lives are intersected by history. This powerful debut novel was inspired by the experiences of Belinda's mother, who grew up in China and came to Australia as a refugee.

Selby the Wonder Dog by Duncan Ball includes two bestselling novels (**Selby Serfs** and **Selby Splits**) about Selby the talking dog.

Blacktown by Shane Weaver is a gritty, inspiring story of one boy's struggle to overcome childhood abuse, become a champion boxer and eventually a world-class advertising creator.



MEET KARIN SLAUGHTER

Indelible

Karin SLAUGHTER

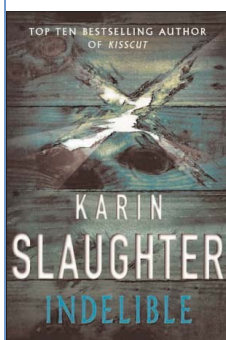
355pp Tp \$29.95

The fourth novel in the hugely successful *Grant County* series takes us back to the past: around the time Sara Linton, medical examiner in the small town of Heartsdale,

and police chief Jeffrey Tolliver get together. Here the focus is on Jeffrey and the reasons why he moved to Grant County in the first place. And Lena? Here we see her with her sister,

Sibyl, when she is at her most unguarded. Following firmly in the acclaimed footsteps of **Blindsighted**, **Kisscut** and **A Faint Cold Fear** (all Pb \$19.95), this is set to be a terrifying, fast-paced and unforgettably vivid thriller guaranteed to hook you from page one. Meet Karin who will be signing her books at Abbey's this month.

Light refreshments will be served.

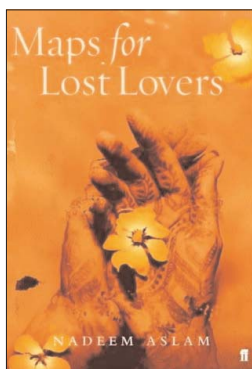


THURSDAY 26 AUGUST 6-7PM

Maps for Lost Lovers

Nadeem ASLAM 496pp Tp \$29.95

This richly poetic and poignant novel spans a year in a Muslim community in a nameless English town. The 65-year-old Shamas and his devout wife Kaukab are waiting to learn what has happened to his brother Jugnu and his young lover Chanda. They had been co-habiting in direct contravention of Islamic law and local morality. The two had simply vanished, five months before the events in the novel take place. Although their bodies have never turned up, several pages into the narrative Chanda's brothers are arrested and it is increasingly clear that - regardless of the who, what and how of their deaths - the majority of the community feel it was both necessary and richly deserved. This exceptional novel follows the seasons, reflecting and refracting the emotional life of the characters in writing that is subtle and passionately alive. It is suffused with poetry and an absolute pleasure to read, do try it.



Cara

My Nine Lives

Ruth Praver JHABVALA

277pp Tp \$32.95

This is a rather strange beast. Jhabvala tells nine separate stories which she describes as "potentially autobiographical". The central theme is an alternative life and how she might inhabit both place and self as (an)other person, with the benefit of hindsight and emotional clarity. If this sounds a little high-falutin', don't worry. Her innate gift as a storyteller of innate grace and insight remains undiminished with the passing of time. The 'place' in these tales ranges from America to India and England, the age and background of each alternate self varying also. What remains constant is her willingness to explore in microcosm the vagaries of the human condition with a wry, yet generous, spirit. Worth reading twice in the same week before lending it out to friends.

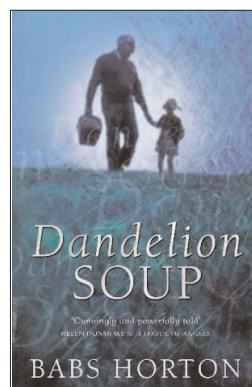
Cara

Dandelion Soup

Babs HORTON 406pp Pb \$21.95

Solly Benjamin lives in a remote Irish village, shunned by his neighbours. One night he finds a little girl on his doorstep, with his name and address attached to a label around her neck. Deciding to keep her with him, rather than leave her to the none-too-tender mercies of the grim orphanage nearby, Solly attempts to solve her mystery. This leads him on a journey to Spain, together with various inhabitants of the town on their annual pilgrimage overseas, where many a simmering resentment and one or two unexpected passions are kindled. A rather beguiling and gentle read, just the thing for a wintry evening or that interminable trip in to work!

Lindy



Snobs

Julian FELLOWES

265pp Pb \$29.95

Edith is a lovely blonde with large eyes and nice manners who manages to catch the eye of one of the most eligible bachelors in England. When he proposes, she accepts - but does she love him, or his title and his wealth? His mother certainly believes the latter, and when a television series is filmed at the grand Broughton Hall and the lead actor becomes friendly with Edith, 'Lady Uckfield's' worst suspicions are confirmed. A sort of modern day Jane Austen novel, but after the marriage, not during the courtship, narrated by a charming and clear-eyed actor who moves comfortably among the upper classes. Irresistible!

Lindy

Salt Rain

Sarah ARMSTRONG

218pp Pb \$21.95

Allie, 14, has never known her father, but her free-spirited mother, Mae, is all the family she wants or needs. Then one night Mae disappears and her estranged sister Julia is forced to bring her niece back to the small country NSW town that Mae fled, years ago. There Allie has to come to terms with different versions of the truths she has grown up with, including her mother's relationships with the townsfolk, her family and most importantly her First Love. Beautifully written and highly evocative.

Lindy

The Last Love Story

Rodney HALL

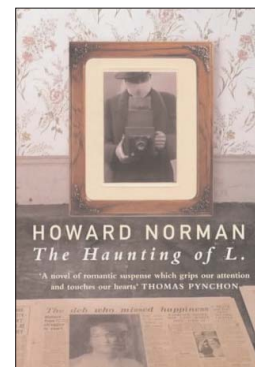
265pp Pb \$22.00

How far would you go to save the person you love most? In the near future, after a violent uprising, a city is divided in two. In City North, a brutal and paranoid regime takes control. Across the Friendship Bridge in City South, the citizens are rich and content and free. Though the border between the two cities is tightly controlled, people from City North still make desperate attempts to smuggle themselves south in search of a better life. In this harsh political environment, a dangerous relationship begins. A man and a woman from opposite sides of the divided city fall in love. Haunting, suspenseful, simple as a fairytale, this is a story about the bonds of love and loyalty. The lovers will be tested in a way that neither of them could have imagined. In the end, only a devastating and selfless act will save them.

The Haunting of L

Howard NORMAN 336pp Pb \$22.00

In 1927, Peter Duvett accepts a job as an assistant to Vienna Linn, an esteemed photographer, in the remote town of Churchill, Manitoba. He does not know that across Canada, Vienna has been arranging the dynamiting of trains in order to photograph the 'accidents' for a mysterious private collector. After a strenuous journey, Peter arrives on the very night of his employer's wedding - only to be seduced by Vienna's brilliant and beautiful new wife, Kala Murie. Between Vienna's makeshift darkroom and Kala's bedside, in the months that follow, Peter is drawn deeper and deeper into love with Kala, and into her obsession with 'spirit pictures', photographs in which the faces of the long-dead mysteriously appear during the process of development. One night, Peter finds himself a co-conspirator, when he comes to understand that Vienna has himself orchestrated a chance to photograph the human soul. This photograph, taken at the site of a plane crash, will continue to haunt him to the last page of this remarkable story.

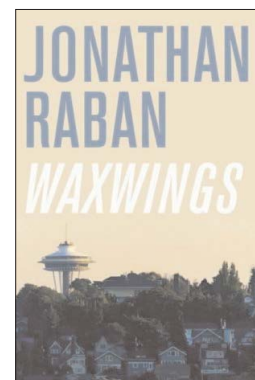


Waxwings

Jonathan RABAN 300pp Pb \$22.00

Best known for his wonderful works of non-fiction (**Coasting** Pb \$23, **Passage to Juneau** Pb \$21), Raban turns his subtle and imaginative sentences onto a fictional English writer living comfortably in a Seattle suburb and a contrasting illegal Chinese economic refugee living uncomfortably on the city's streets. The surprising plot is set at the very end of the last millennium, moving among internet start-ups and anti-globalisation rallies, from crimes personal to public, from boom to bust. As usual, it is Raban's keen observations as an understanding observer that anchor the reader. Like his non-fiction, this is about the relationship between person and place, and the pleasures and pains of having roots, or tearing them up.

Adrian



The Clearing

Tim GATREAU

375pp Pb \$19.95

Before the First World War, Byron Aldridge led a charmed life as heir apparent to a Pennsylvania timber empire, but he returned from France a different man. He ends up working as a company policeman in a backwoods Louisiana sawmill, where violence seems the only way to keep control. Here, amid the cypress swamps and alligators, his younger brother Randolph assumes charge of the mill and tries to rescue his former idol. As the brothers struggle to understand each other and their wives contend with their own hopes and fears, it is Randolph who starts a feud with the Sicilians who control the whisky and girls, and the future grows fearsome for them all.

Little Black Bastard

A Story of Survival

Noel TOVEY

248pp Tp \$35.00

Noel Tovey had a childhood and adolescence that would have killed some and twisted many beyond hope. Born in the slums of Carlton, he was abandoned at the age of six, spent several years in the 'care' of an abusive foster father, then managed to get by as a street kid in 1940s Melbourne. Buffeted by neglect, poverty and sexual abuse, he ended up in Pentridge Gaol at the age of 17, contemplating suicide. Yet he continued to pursue his dreams and hold on to the hope that he would realise his potential as an actor and dancer.

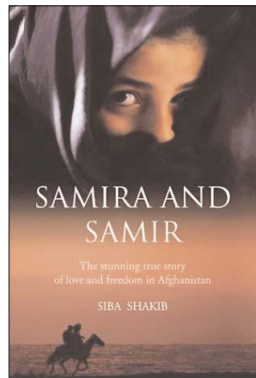
Samira and Samir

Siba SHAKIB

288pp Tp \$32.95

This is an extraordinary story of love and courage which borders on the unbelievable as it tells of a woman who finds her own path in a life beset by serious difficulties. When Samira is born, her father (a fighter in Afghanistan) decides to bring her up as a boy known as Samir. She learns to fight, ride and shoot as well as any young male, and when her father is killed, she becomes head of the family. However, she falls in love and must confess the truth before she can live as Bashir's wife. In an act of breathtaking courage she risks her life to tell the truth, but she hates wearing the veil and she hates the restrictions in her life. The torment is unbearable and she realises that she has to forge a third way for herself, that of a confident woman who (bravely) takes charge of her own life. Exquisitely told by the author of **Afghanistan: Where God Only Comes to Weep** (Pb \$24.95), this is a wonderful read, but I admit to having doubts about its veracity.

Cara



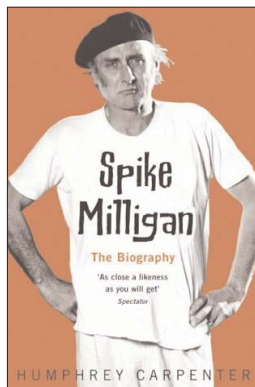
Spike Milligan

Humphrey CARPENTER

434pp Pb \$22.95

The author insists, with reason, that *The Goon Show* was Milligan's best work, going even further to state that nothing he did afterwards surpassed or equalled the ferocious humour and brilliance of the Goons. Carpenter's own sense of the ridiculous suffuses this generous biography as he explores a character who could be as difficult and contradictory as he was generous and talented. A complex man with a surrealistic sense of humour, Spike was one of the best-loved comedians in England. Somewhat ironically, he was most loved by those who didn't actually know him. If you're interested in the history of British comedy, or merely wish to learn more about a fascinating writer and performer, this is the one to read.

Cara



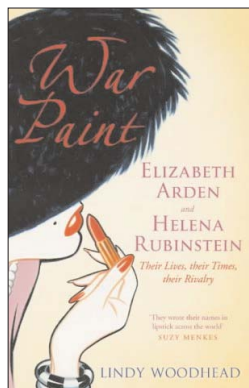
War Paint

Lindy WOODHEAD

512pp Pb \$26.95

This is the fascinating tale of two remarkable women - Miss Elizabeth Arden and Madame Helena Rubinstein - and the forces and influences that drove them. They left an extraordinary legacy - the creation of the modern cosmetics and beauty industry. Their phenomenal achievements are all the more extraordinary considering the period in which they lived. The similarities between the two are made much of, particularly the lack of physical beauty in both women. While being somewhat small in stature, both made up for it through sheer force of personality. Their life-long rivalry was probably due to the similarities in upbringing; they were both born into genteel poverty and were motivated by money and the creation of their businesses, their mutual hatred no doubt inspired by mutual recognition of personal fallibility and culpability. No-one becomes fabulously wealthy by being a nice person, after all. Decidedly gossipy, with exactly the right amount of bitchiness, this is enjoyable as much for its vivid social history as for its biographical details. *due August*

Cara



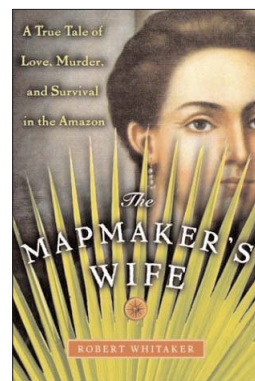
The Mapmaker's Wife

A True Tale of Love, Murder, and Survival in the Amazon

Robert WHITAKER

368pp Tp \$32.95

In the first part of the 18th century, the French National Academy of Sciences sent a group of distinguished scientists on a daring, decade-long expedition into the heart of South America in a bid to win the race to measure the Earth. Its purpose was to unveil the heart of a little-known continent to a world hungry for knowledge, recording countless new plant and animal species and revealing the inhuman and brutal treatment of the natives at the hands of the Spanish. Scaling the 16,000-foot Peruvian Andes, the scientists then faced the deprivations and dangers of the rainforest - wild cats, insects, vampire bats - and barely completed their mission. Some went mad, others succumbed to smallpox, one was stoned to death by locals and another was killed in a bullfight. The youngest, Jean Godin, fell in love with a beautiful local girl, Isabel Grameson, and married her, planning to bring her back to France. At the expedition's end, Jean and Isabel became stranded at opposite ends of the Amazon, victims of a tangled web of international politics. Isabel's solo journey to reunite with Jean after their calamitous 20-year separation was so dramatic that it left all of Europe spellbound. Her survival - unprecedented in the annals of Amazon exploration - was a testament to human endurance, female resourcefulness and the power of devotion.



Henry Handel Richardson

A Life

Michael ACKLAND

368pp Hb \$59.95

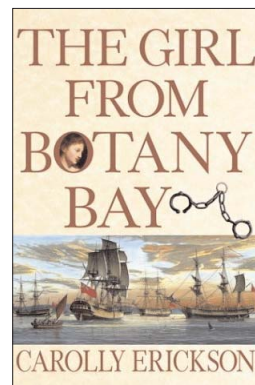
Henry Handel Richardson has been celebrated for her classic Australian novels **The Getting of Wisdom** (Pb \$14.95) and **The Fortunes of Richard Mahony** (Pb \$29.95), yet her own life story is still to be fully told. This enthralling book provides the first complete biography of the enigmatic Australian literary icon and sheds new light on the conjecture surrounding her life. Beginning with her traumatic childhood, then tracing in detail the largely unknown story of the 11 formative years she spent on the Continent, the book then goes on to explore the personal and social forces that moved her during her long years as a London intellectual. Also of interest are **Henry Handel Richardson: The Letters** in three hardback volumes \$88.00 each.

The Girl from Botany Bay

Carolly ERICKSON

224pp Pb \$30.00

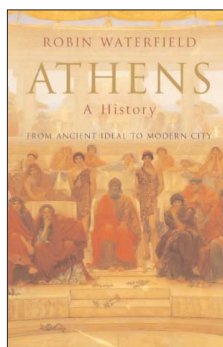
In 1788, the British government commuted 19-year-old Mary Bryant's death sentence and transported her to Botany Bay. Her crime: stealing a lady's bonnet. In Australia, Mary married another convict and had two children, but harsh conditions made life increasingly unbearable. In 1791, she escaped with her family and seven other convicts in a small open boat and sailed an astonishing 4,000 miles to the Dutch colony at Timor. The convicts initially passed as survivors of a shipwreck, but they were soon exposed, rounded up and put on a ship back to England. Mary's two children died of fever on the voyage and it seemed likely that she would face transportation back to Australia. But in England, her amazing escape and tragic story quickly became a cause célèbre. James Boswell, a celebrity of the London literary world since his bestselling biography of Dr Johnson, was so fascinated by the story that he met Mary and took up her cause. His advocacy proved so powerful that her life was spared and eventually she received a pardon. Carolly Erickson has brought an incredible true story vividly to life, illuminating Mary's world, the horrors of transportation and the early penal settlement, and describing in gripping detail the remarkable story of her escape.



Athens: A History

From Ancient Ideal to Modern City

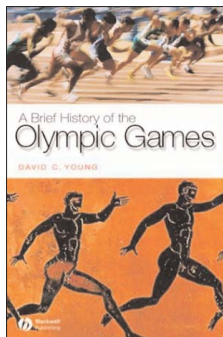
Robin WATERFIELD 524pp Hb \$59.95
Waterfield traces the life and history of Athens, one of the great classical cities of the world. The book covers the entire history of Athens, from its brief period of classical greatness through its decline under a series of occupying empires - Macedonian, Roman, Byzantine and Turkish - to its resurrection in the modern era.



A Brief History of the Olympic Games

David YOUNG 200pp Pb \$35.95

Classics professor, Young, the author of **Olympic Myth of Greek Amateur Athletics** (Pb \$38), manages to have a brightly coloured, yet sturdy, running shoe in both camps with his new and timely book. In this brief, yet detailed, study of Olympic history, he dispels academic and popular myths, and also writes an approachable history for both those fascinated by the games and those less likely to spend August in front of the television. For the latter, there are lots of nice facts for those dinner parties (ancient runners used a standing start) and the kind of overview of things you thought you would already have known but didn't (that the games began several decades before Homer wrote his *Iliad* and were perhaps still happening as the Roman Empire fell). For the more serious, Young runs through the various events and provides an insight into how things were then and how difficult it is to be certain of that now. And he crosses the finish line with Coubertin, the ghost of Plato and a generally positive word on the games' modern revival.



Adrian

The Fourth Crusade and the Sack of Constantinople

Jonathan PHILLIPS 373pp Hb \$62.95

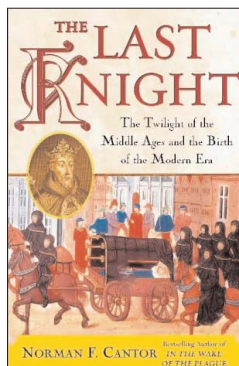
In April 1204, the armies of Western Christendom wrote another bloodstained chapter in the history of holy war. Two years earlier, aflame with religious zeal, the Fourth Crusade set out to free Jerusalem from the grip of Islam. But after a dramatic series of events, the crusaders turned their weapons against the Christian city of Constantinople, the heart of the Byzantine Empire and the greatest metropolis in the known world. The crusaders spared no one in their savagery, they murdered old and young, and raped women, girls and nuns in their frenzy. They also desecrated churches, plundered treasuries and put much of the city to the torch. In celebration of the victory, a prostitute from the crusader army climbed onto the altar of the Hagia Sophia and gyrated to obscene songs. Barbarism cloaked in the mantle of religious warfare had swept aside one of the great civilisations of history. Phillips follows the fortunes of the leading players, but also explores the conflicting motives that drove the expedition to commit this infamous massacre and looks at the experience of crusading from the perspective of a knight.

The Last Knight

The Twilight of the Middle Ages and the Birth of the Modern Era

Norman CANTOR 256pp Hb \$44.95

John of Gaunt was the richest man in Europe, apart from its monarchs, and he epitomised and surpassed the ideals of the late Middle Ages. From chivalry (he was taught at a young age to fight on horseback like the knights of old) to courtly love (his three marriages included two romantic love-matches), he was an ideal leader. He created lavish courts, sponsoring Chaucer and proto-Protestant religious thinkers and he survived the dramatic Peasants' Revolt, during which his sumptuous London residence was burned to the ground. As the head of the Lancastrian Branch of the Plantagenet family, he was the unknowing father of the War of the Roses, for his son Henry Bolingbroke usurped the crown from Gaunt's nephew, Richard II, after Gaunt had died. He passed away just as one great era gave way to the next: his grandson, Henry the Navigator, launched the Age of Exploration. Gaunt's adventures represent the culture and mores of the Middle Ages as few others' do, and his death is portrayed by Cantor as the end of that fascinating period.



The Cardinal's Hat

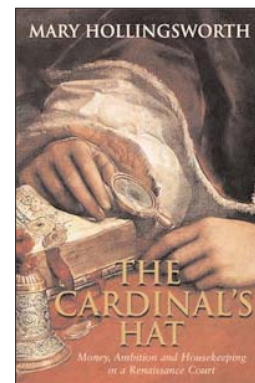
Money, Ambition and Housekeeping in a Renaissance Court

Mary HOLLINGSWORTH

286pp Hb \$49.95

Ippolito d'Este was the second son of Lucretia Borgia and Alfonso d'Este. Although he became Archbishop of Milan at the age of nine and was independently wealthy by the time he was 25, he still needed to increase his wealth and prestige. The best way was to become a Cardinal, with a chance of the papal throne in the future. To that end, Ippolito formed an alliance with Francis I of France (who was his oldest brother's brother-in-law) and entered whole-heartedly into the role of courtier. As this involved hunting, gambling and lavish displays of sumptuous finery, Ippolito was in his element. Even better for us, he employed a number of conscientious servants, who kept painstakingly detailed ledgers and household accounts, many of which were preserved in archives in Modena. Hollingsworth draws on these papers to give a vivid and sparkling account of 16th century life as lived by a Renaissance prince, detailing both the magnificent and the mundane.

Lindy

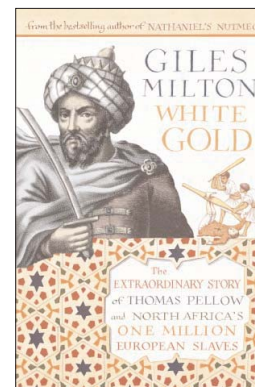


White Gold

The Extraordinary Story of Thomas Pellow and North Africa's One Million European Slaves

Giles MILTON 352pp Tp \$35.00

In the summer of 1716, a Cornish cabin boy named Thomas Pellow and 52 of his comrades were captured at sea by the Barbary corsairs. Their captors, fanatical Islamic slave traders, had declared war on the whole of Christendom. Thousands of Europeans had been snatched from their homes and taken in chains to the great slave markets of Algiers, Tunis and Sale in Morocco to be sold to the highest bidder. Pellow was bought by the tyrannical sultan of Morocco, who bragged that his white slaves enabled him to hold all of Europe to ransom. The sultan was constructing an imperial pleasure palace of enormous scale and grandeur, built entirely using Christian slave labour. Pellow was selected to be a personal slave of the sultan and he would witness first-hand the barbaric splendour of the imperial Moroccan court, as well as experience daily terror. For 23 years, he would dream of his home, his family and freedom. He was one of the fortunate few who survived to tell his tale.



Birth of the Chess Queen

A History

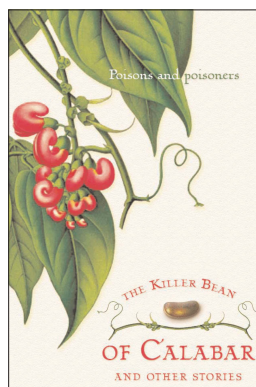
Marilyn YALOM

272pp Hb \$39.95

From the author of **A History of the Wife** (Pb \$34.95) comes a history of the most powerful piece in chess. Few people know that the game existed for 500 years without the queen. In India, Persia and the Arab lands, where the game was first played, a general or vizier (chief counsellor to the king) occupied the square where the queen now stands. Not until the year 1000, 200 years after the Moors brought chess to southern Europe, did a queen appear on the chess board. Initially she was the weakest piece, moving one square at a time on the diagonal, yet by 1500, during the reign of Isabella of Castile, the chess queen had become the formidable force she is today. In a lively and engaging narrative, Yalom draws parallels between the birth of the chess queen and the ascent of female sovereigns in Europe, presenting a layered history of medieval courts.

The Killer Bean of Calabar and Other Stories

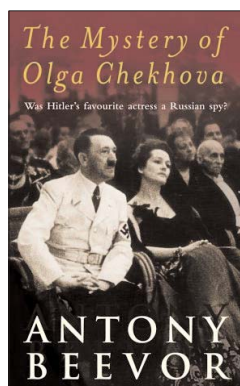
Peter MACINNIS 256pp Pb \$24.95
Do you know which part of a fruit fly is poisonous? Or that a single cigarette contains enough poison in its nicotine content to kill outright - if injected? Or that the Black Death may not have been caused by the bubonic plague, but by ergotism (poisoning by eating food affected by ergot)? This rather entertaining book is full of facts, anecdotes and little asides, all concerning poison. Who has used it, how and why and where it was used, and what it actually is, are all explored in an accessible and well researched style.



Lindy

The Mystery of Olga Chekhova

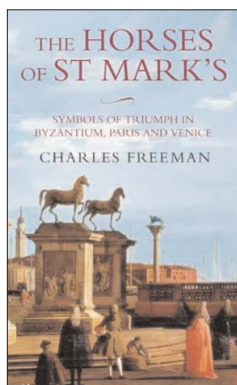
Antony BEEVOR 320pp Hb \$35.00
This is the extraordinary tale of how one family survived the Russian Revolution, the civil war, the rise of Hitler, the Stalinist Terror and the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. There have been many tantalising rumours about Olga Chekhova, the niece of Anton Chekhov. She left Russia for Germany and became a film star honoured by the Nazis, yet secretly worked for Soviet intelligence. Some of her closest relatives joined her in Berlin; the rest remained in Moscow. Young and beautiful, yet with nothing of value but a smuggled diamond ring, she left Moscow in 1920 to escape starvation and degradation. In Berlin, by making the most of her Chekhov name, she obtained a part in a silent movie. Success followed quickly and she eventually became Hitler's favourite film star. In putting together this dramatic story, Antony Beevor brilliantly shows how people lived under the terrible pressures of a totalitarian age.



The Horses of St Mark's

A Story of Triumph in Byzantium, Paris and Venice

Charles FREEMAN 298pp Hb \$45.00
Much of the facade of St Mark's Basilica has changed since Venice's medieval heyday, but the four horses on the loggia above the main entrance still dominate the square as they did in the 15th century. They are the only team of four horses to survive from antiquity. Their origin is uncertain - they were probably cast in the 2nd century AD in Greece or Rome - but their journey through history has been remarkable. Wherever they have been displayed, the horses have been central as both symbols of beauty and power. The first written reference we have to them is in 4th century Constantinople, where they represented the Emperor's divine connection. They were then plundered by the Doge of Venice when he torched the city during the fourth crusade. When Napoleon invaded in 1797, the horses were at the top of his shopping list and on their removal to Paris they were at the front of his imperial triumph. The magnificent beasts have been witnesses, therefore, to some of the most tumultuous events in European history. Reading this highly original book is to see these events through the eyes of one of the great international works of art.



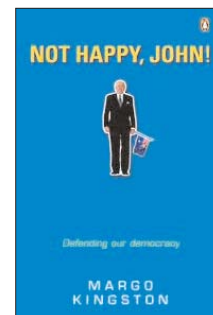
The Age of Napoleon

Alistair HORNE 192pp Hb \$35.00
Horne begins his absorbing account by examining Napoleon's rise to prominence against the background of the French Revolution. He describes Napoleon's brilliance as a general and strategist, culminating in the Battle of Austerlitz, one of the greatest military campaigns of all times. He goes on to discuss the cultural achievements of the Napoleonic era both in France and abroad before charting Napoleon's downfall and his bitter defeat at Waterloo in 1815. The book ends with a discussion of Napoleon's legacy and the myths that have sprung up around this most controversial of French leaders. This is popular history at its very best - a gripping narrative, enriched by fascinating anecdotes, told by one of the world's leading authorities on the subject.

These are not specifically chosen due to their anti-Howard stance, but are all current election-related titles:

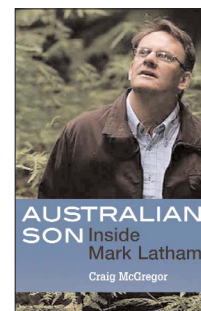
Not Happy, John! by Margo Kingston (Pb \$24.95)

"Not Happy, John, with the way: you snuck us into the Iraq war without ever really telling us why, you trample on our democratic right to know, you'd like to give the Media Moguls control of ALL our news, a Big Donation lets Big Business share a barbecue with you and George W, you let President Bush ambush OUR Parliament - and then let President Hu roll us, all over again, the next day, you use 'globalisation' to avoid accountability, you treat us as passive consumers - not as CITIZENS and people of goodwill." Margo Kingston, one of Australia's most fearless political journalists, thinks it's crunch time for Australia. This is a gutsy, anecdotal book with a deadly serious purpose: to lay bare the insidious ways in which John Howard's government has profoundly undermined our freedoms and our rights.



Australian Son: Inside Mark Latham

by Craig McGregor (200pp Pb \$24.95)
This is the first book on Mark Latham; the man many believe will be Australia's next Prime Minister. Based on interviews with Mark Latham over seven years including in-depth sessions since he became Labor leader, this book provides insight into how Latham's personal life inspired his political ideas.



What's Wrong with the Liberal Party?

by Greg Barns (176pp Pb \$29.95)

Federally the fortunes of the Australian Liberal Party have rarely been higher, yet times remain uncertain for the party and questions about its future remain: How much more division about its economic and social direction can it sustain? What changes has it made to stop the Democrats and One Nation stealing its voters? How can a party associated with the 'big end' of town hope to keep the trust of the 'battlers'? How is the old dogma of the party coping with the new challenges of globalisation and terrorism? Why are the Liberals so obsessed with Paul Keating? Greg Barns is a former Liberal and the only member (apart from Pauline Hanson) to be dis-endorsed by the party before an election. Drawing upon his insider's knowledge and his outsider's freedom to consider the issues objectively, he exposes the major challenges facing the party today.

True Believer: John Howard, George Bush and the American Alliance

by Robert Garran (240pp Pb \$24.95)
When John Howard stood in a press conference at Washington's Willard Hotel just after the planes crashed into the Twin Towers on September 11, he knew exactly what to do. Australia would quickly pledge support for its great and powerful friend. Robert Garran examines Howard's unswerving belief in the radical and dangerous doctrines of George W Bush. He argues that in his eagerness to join Bush in his war in Iraq, Howard failed to comprehend the perils. More than that, Howard has hijacked Australia's national story with his conservative nationalism and is now using that story to take Australia on a dangerous journey. *due August*

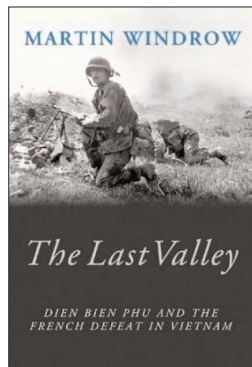
On a more humorous note are these two tongue-in-cheek titles due in August. John Clarke's **The Howard Miracle** (Pb \$22.00) is drawn from John Clarke and Bryan Dawe's weekly broadcasts on ABC TV's *7.30 Report*. These mock interviews are a wonderful and hilarious record of the highs and lows in the political career of our current government. Guaranteed to raise an eyebrow and tickle the funny bone, **Late Night Correspondence of John Howard** by Barry Everingham (Pb \$12.95) gives Howard's immediate (and uncensored) responses to both the big issues and the smaller ones, shared with the love queens in his life: Elizabeth and Janette.

The Last Valley

Dien Bien Phu and the French Defeat in Vietnam

Martin WINDROW 734pp Hb \$59.95

In December 1953, the French army challenged its elusive Vietnamese enemies to a stand-up battle. French paratroopers landed on the border between Vietnam and Laos, astride the Communist lines of communication. The Vietnamese not only attacked, they isolated the French force and besieged it in its jungle base. The hunters became the hunted. As defeat loomed, the French appealed to the USA where Vice-President Nixon and Air Force General Le May planned to drop atomic bombs on the Vietnamese supply dumps. It fell to Winston Churchill to block the use of atomic weapons in Vietnam: President Eisenhower would not employ them without his consent. What followed became a Stalingrad in the jungle: the French were worn down and destroyed. They withdrew from Vietnam, but the country was divided at US insistence, creating the short-lived 'Republic of South Vietnam' for which 55,000 US servicemen would die over the next 20 years. The French colonial army regrouped in Algeria where a new war began, one it was so determined to win that its officers would ultimately attempt a coup d'état. Dien Bien Phu was a true landmark battle.



Kokoda

Peter FITZSIMONS 490pp Hb \$49.95

For Australians, Kokoda is the iconic battle of WWII, yet few people know the names of the men who fought on the track, or even the details of what happened. More Australians died in the months of fighting in Papua than in any other campaign of the war. Kokoda was a defining battle for Australia, where a small force of young, ill-equipped Australians engaged a highly experienced and hitherto unstoppable Japanese force on a narrow, precarious jungle track. Again and again, the outnumbered Australians risked everything to stop the Japanese from advancing along the track towards mainland Australia. Conditions on the track were hellish, rain was constant, food and ammunition supplies were practically non-existent and the men constantly battled malaria and dysentery, as well as the Japanese. Bringing the ragged, bloody heroes of the Australian Army alive, Fitzsimons also gives the perspective of the crack Japanese troops and the extraordinary local people as well.

Inside the Mirage

America's Fragile Partnership with Saudi Arabia

Thomas LIPPMAN 400pp Hb \$45.00

The 60-year marriage of convenience between Saudi Arabia and the US is in trouble, with potentially rocky consequences for the US and its relationship to Islam. This relationship has always been a marriage of convenience, not affection. In a bargain cemented by President Roosevelt and Saudi Arabia's founding king in 1945, Americans gained access to Saudi oil - and the Saudis sent the dollars back with purchases of American planes, weapons, construction projects and American know-how - which brought them modernisation, education and security. The marriage has suited both sides. But how long can it last? Veteran Middle East journalist Thomas Lippman shows that behind the official proclamations of friendship and alliance lies a complex relationship that has often been strained by the mutual aversion of two very different societies.



The 9/11 Investigations

Staff Reports of the 9/11 Commission

Steven STRASSER (editor) 580pp Pb \$25.00

This book lifts the curtain on the top-secret investigations into the worst attack in American history. Here in one place is the most salient information from both the Joint House-Senate Inquiry and the 9/11 Commission investigation. First, the most shocking discoveries to emerge in the course of the investigations are presented. Former *Newsweek* editor Strasser has combed through the extensive investigative documents and extracted the most revelatory information about 9/11 itself, the al-Qaeda plot, the terrorist attack, the emergency response - as well as troubling insights into the inner workings of the government: the decision-making process at the top levels of government, the miscommunication between the FBI and the CIA, and the fatal oversights made by the Bush administration before the attacks.

In *The Green State* (331pp Pb \$42.95), Robyn Eckersley explores what it might take to create a green democratic state as an alternative to the classical liberal democratic state, the indiscriminate growth-dependent welfare state, and the neo-liberal market-focused state - seeking, she writes, "to navigate between undisciplined political imagination and pessimistic resignation to the status quo".

Peter Williams' *Life of Bach* (219pp Pb \$39.95) looks critically at the meagre documentation on Bach's life and suggests new interpretations of the composer's life and work. In particular, he asks if our understanding of Bach has been hindered by the unremitting deference displayed towards him since his death.

Sheldon Wolin's *Politics and Vision* (761pp \$69.00) was first published in 1960 and is regarded as one of the greatest works of modern political theory. This new edition retains intact the original ten chapters about political thinkers from Plato to Mill and adds seven chapters about theorists from Marx and Nietzsche to Rawls and the postmodernists.

In *Jazzwomen* (500pp Hb \$79.50), Wayne Enstice and Janis Stockhouse present 21 fascinating interviews with women jazz instrumentalists and vocalists including Marian McPartland, Abbey Lincoln, Cassandra Wilson and Diana Krall. They discuss everything - their personal lives, musical training and inspirations, recordings, relationships with other musicians, the music industry and sexism on the bandstand. Includes a sampler CD with complete works by several of the artists.

Ancient Greek Athletics (288pp Hb \$70.00) provides the first comprehensive introduction to the subject, vividly describing ancient sporting events and games and exploring their impact on art, literature and politics. Using a wide array of ancient sources, written and visual, and including recent archaeological discoveries, the author reconstructs ancient Greek athletic festivals and the details of specific athletic events.

Andean Archaeology (342pp Pb \$77.00) edited by Helaine Silverman explores the rise of civilisation in the Central Andes from the time of the region's earliest inhabitants to the emergence of the Inca state many thousands of years later. It addresses the need to explore the rich history of this region in a manner that is illuminating not only to scholars but also those readers who may be less familiar with Andean prehistory.

In *The Great Plague* (357pp Hb \$56.95), A Lloyd and Dorothy Moote provide an engrossing and deeply informed account of this cataclysmic year in London's history. Their narrative shows the effects on both rich and poor inhabitants of London, as well as the inhabitants of the surrounding countryside, and reveals that even at the height of the plague the city did not descend into chaos.

Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia (245pp Pb \$69.95) by Thomas Allsen focuses on the extensive exchanges between Iran and China. The Mongol rulers of these two ancient civilisations 'shared' the cultural resources of their realms with one another. The result was a lively traffic in specialist personnel and scholarly literature between East and West.

The Cambridge History of the Pacific Islanders (518pp Pb \$99.00) edited by Donald Denoon, acknowledges the great diversity of Pacific people's cultures and experiences, but also looks for common patterns and related themes. It covers such topics as prehistoric settlement, first contact with Europeans, World War II and nuclear testing in the Pacific.

A new translation of *The Qur'an* (464pp Hb \$32.95) has just been published. It is written in a contemporary idiom that remains faithful to the original, making it easy to read while retaining its powers of eloquence.

In *The Lion and the Tiger* (234pp Hb \$49.95), Denis Judd tells the fascinating story of the remarkable British impact upon India, capturing the essence of what the Raj really meant both for the British and their Indian subjects.

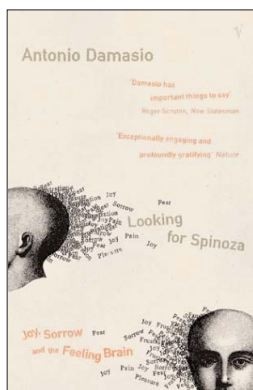
Dave

Looking for Spinoza

Joy, Sorrow and the Feeling Brain

Antonio DAMASIO 356pp Pb \$27.95
From the author of **Descartes' Error** (Pb \$34.00) and **The Feeling of What Happens** (Pb \$27.95), this unusual book combines his report on what neuroscience tells us about feelings and emotions and why he thinks Spinoza prefigured some of the modern ideas on emotions, feelings and ethics. The results of Damasio's own research, as well as that of others, has convinced him that the traditional dichotomy between reason and emotion is wrong, and that the brain functions by mapping the body. He also speculates that feelings - joy, pain, well-being, sorrow - not only contribute to the survival of the species but impel humans toward ethical behaviour and cooperative social organisation, and that the beginnings of emotional behaviour can be recognised in the simplest of organisms.

Dave



The Puzzle Instinct

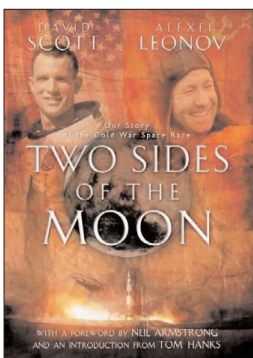
The Meaning of Puzzles in Human Life

Marcel DANESI 269pp Tp \$37.95
Human beings are born with an 'instinct for puzzles' that betrays a larger search for meaning to life. This instinct is as intrinsic to human nature as is language, humour, art, music and the other creative faculties that distinguish humanity from all other species. Why are humans fascinated by puzzles? Puzzle-addict and renowned communication theorist, Marcel Danesi, takes readers on an exploration of the philosophical implications of the puzzle instinct. Puzzles are as old as humanity and the human instinct for puzzles betrays the larger perpetual search for meaning to life. Danesi has not only included many in this book to puzzle over, he explores why we like to puzzle over them as well. Among the smaller puzzles in this book are the solutions to some much larger ones: What is the necessary *raison d'être* that puzzles serve? why did they emerge at the same time in history as myth, magic and the occult arts? and why can't we put them down?

Two Sides of the Moon

Our Story of the Cold War Space Race

David SCOTT & Alexei LEONOV 415pp Tp \$34.95
Growing up on either side of the Iron Curtain, David Scott and Alexei Leonov shared the same dream - to become a pilot. Excelling at flying, they became elite fighter pilots and were chosen by their countries' burgeoning space programs to be part of the greatest technological race ever - to land a man on the moon. Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov became the first man to walk in space. It was a feat that won him a place in history, but almost cost him his life. A year later, in 1966, astronauts David Scott and Neil Armstrong were seconds away from dying as their spacecraft, Gemini 8, spun violently out of control across space. Both men survived against dramatic odds and went on to fly their own lunar missions: Armstrong to command Apollo 11 and Scott to command the most complex expedition in the history of exploration, Apollo 15. Spending three days on the moon, Scott became the seventh man to walk on its breathtaking surface. Marking a new age of US/USSR co-operation, the Apollo Soyuz Test Project brought Scott and Leonov together, finally ending the Cold War silence and building a friendship that would last for decades.



The Anatomy of Insects and Spiders

Over 600 Exquisite Forms

Claire BEVERLEY & David PONSONBY 287pp Pb \$27.95
From the gossamer wings of a dragonfly to the shiny carapace of the beetle, the insect world is one of the most varied, colourful and fascinating of the animal kingdom. For centuries, naturalists have catalogued thousands of species and created intricately detailed illustrations of each insect or arachnid. Here you'll find profiles and drawings of over 600 species, showcasing them in all their diverse glory.

For Good Measure

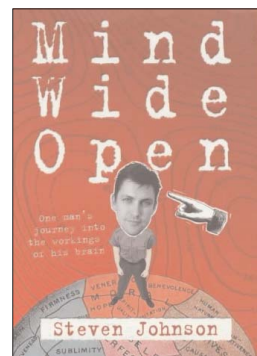
The Making of Australia's Measurement System

Jan TODD 290pp Hb \$45.00
Set within an international context, this book tells the story of how Australia developed its own ways of providing for good measures. It begins with the modes of measurement brought with white settlement to Australia and the chaos that emerged from the conflicting and fragmented approach of the Australian colonies. Recognising that common ways of measuring were a natural accompaniment to the uniform trade that motivated the proponents of federation, those who wrote the constitution for the Australian nation installed the explicit power for the federal government to override parochial interests and make national laws on weights and measures. Federal governments, though, have been strangely ambivalent about using that power. As Australia confronts the measurement challenges of tomorrow's cutting edge technology and global trade, the creation of a new National Institute of Measurement in 2004 is a landmark step along an ever-changing road.

Mind Wide Open

One Man's Journey into the Workings of his Brain

Steven JOHNSON 274pp Hb \$45.00
Intrigued by the mysteries of the human brain and baffled by some of his own mental foibles (such as an embarrassing phobia of bees and a tendency to make jokes at inappropriate moments), journalist and author Steven Johnson decided to find out exactly how his brain worked - even though he had no scientific training. This is his fascinating, often bizarre odyssey into the mind, one which takes him around the world, meeting leading experts, undergoing psychological tests and brain scans. The result is an astonishing glimpse into the strange world within our heads and what makes us who we are.



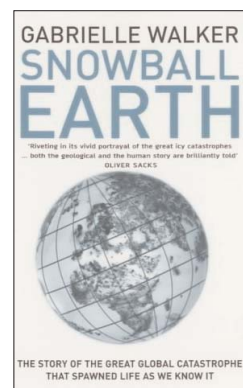
The Human Story

A New History of Mankind's Evolution

Robin DUNBAR 216pp Hb \$35.00
For scientists studying evolution, the past decade has seen astonishing advances across many disciplines - discoveries which have revolutionised scientific thinking and turned upside down our understanding of who we are. This book brings together these threads of research in genetics, behaviour and psychology to provide an understanding of just what it is that makes us human. Robin Dunbar looks in particular at how the human mind has evolved and draws on his own research during the last five years into the deep psychological and biological bases of music and religion.

Snowball Earth

Gabrielle WALKER 269pp Pb \$24.95
Did the Earth once undergo a super ice age, one that froze the entire planet? Paul Hoffman, a brilliant and irascible scientist at Harvard, claims that the Earth experienced just such a climate cataclysm 700 million years ago. The consequences of this idea are far-reaching. For Hoffman believes that this global deep freeze triggered the great Cambrian Explosion, the so-far unexplained moment in geological time when a glorious profusion of complex life forms first sprang from the primordial soup. In her gripping account, Gabrielle Walker takes us on a journey to some of the most picturesque and formidable places on Earth - from the polar ice cap to the Australian outback and the African desert - as Hoffman and his fellow geologists travel the earth to find supporting evidence for their theories. Not just a tale about geology, or climate, or even evolution, this book is the story of a revolution in the making.



The Mathematical Work of Charles Babbage (235pp Pb \$59.95) by J Dubbey describes the evolution of Babbage's work on the design and implementation of the engines by means of a detailed study of his early mathematical investigations.

The Earth Machine (335pp Hb \$80.00) by Edmond Mathez and James Webster provides an up-to-date overview of the central theories and major discoveries in earth science today. With numerous full-colour photographs and easy-to-understand photographs, the authors explore the major events in our planet's evolution.

Thoroughly revised, updated and now also including special relativity, **Relativity** (396pp Pb \$89.95) by Hans Stephani provides a pedagogical introduction to relativity. Written as a textbook for undergraduate and introductory graduate courses, it is self-contained, but the reader is expected to have a basic knowledge of theoretical mechanics and electrodynamics.

Approximating Perfection (225pp Hb \$52.95) considers the background behind mechanics, as well as the mathematical ideas that play key roles in mechanical applications. Concentrating on the models of applied mechanics, the book engages the reader in the types of nuts-and-bolts considerations that are normally avoided in formal engineering courses: how and why models remain imperfect and the factors that motivated their development.

The Works of Archimedes Volume 1: The Two Books *On the Sphere and the Cylinder* (375pp Hb \$199.00) with translation and commentary by Reviel Netz, is the first volume of the first fully fledged translation of his works into English. It is also the first publication of a major ancient Greek mathematician to include a critical edition of the diagrams, and the first translation into English of Eutocius' ancient commentary on Archimedes.

Out of this World (308pp Hb \$49.95) by Stephen Webb looks at what physics can tell us about what happened before the Big Bang. After introducing general relativity and quantum mechanics - the twin foundations of 20th century physics - he explains how they are fundamentally incompatible. Then, in a series of increasingly astonishing chapters, he introduces us to the seemingly outlandish and bizarre proposals - from almost unbelievably small particles to huge membranes that may envelope our Universe - that physicists have devised to account for this incompatibility, ultimately leading us to wholly new realms of understanding.

A new edition of **Whale Watching in Australian and New Zealand Waters** (148pp Pb \$29.95) by Peter Gill and Cecilia Burke is now available. Whale watching is becoming more popular each year, and this is a comprehensive guide to the best spots to see whales and dolphins. Identification guide included.

Kookaburra: King of the Bush (117pp Pb \$34.95) by Sarah Legge provides a complete overview of kookaburras and their unique place in Australian culture and natural history. It features magnificent colour photographs of the different species of kookaburra, as well as new insights into kookaburra chick behaviour, by Australia's leading kookaburra researcher.

Walking in Space (382pp Pb \$84.95) by David Shayler explores the development of space walking techniques and support hardware. Drawing upon original documentation, personal interviews and official post-flight reports, the author reveals the very personal experience of exploring space outside the spacecraft and looks at the development of training and equipment for work in the vacuum of space, on the Moon and eventually on Mars.

In **Bolt of Fate** (297pp Hb \$44.95), Tom Tucker looks at Benjamin Franklin's experiment of 1752 when he flew a kite during a thunderstorm. He recreates in delightful detail the world of 18th century experimental science and comes to some surprising conclusions about the famous experiment.

The Clementine Atlas of the Moon (316pp Hb \$150.00) by Ben Bussey and Paul Spudis is based on data collected by the 1994 Clementine mission and covers the entire Moon in 144 charts. It is the most complete lunar nomenclature database in existence and is the first atlas to show the entire lunar surface in uniform scale and format.

In **Beasts of Eden** (340pp Hb \$54.00), David Rains Wallace presents a lively account of fossil mammal discoveries and an overview of what those discoveries have revealed about early mammals and their evolution. Along with a fascinating menagerie of mammals, from mammoths to giant sloths and whales with legs, we are introduced to the scientists who discovered and theorised about them, men like Georges Cuvier, Richard Owen, George Gaylord Simpson and Stephen Jay Gould.

Dave

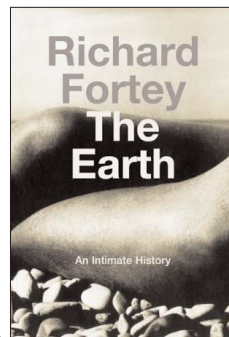
The Earth

An Intimate History

Richard FORTEY 501pp Hb \$55.00

This fabulous book, from the author of **Life: An Unauthorised Biography** (Pb \$27.95) and **Trilobite** (Pb \$24.95) tells the geological history of the Earth by looking at a number of particularly interesting sites that the author has visited. Each place has something to tell us about the Earth. Like the Alps, formed when the plates on which Europe and Africa sit collided, the Hawaiian islands, which have risen out of the ocean as the Pacific Plate slowly moves over a hot spot and Newfoundland, whose rocks reveal the existence of Iapetus, a long-vanished ocean. The people who studied the rocks in these places and tried to understand their structure and history are also discussed, as is the very big part that the Earth's geology has played and continues to play in human life.

Dave



Mutants

On the Form, Varieties and Errors of the Human Body

Armand Marie LEROIE

431pp Tp \$29.95

What does the new molecular genetics tell us about the human condition? How is a limb formed? Why do we have five fingers (and not six)? What controls the size to which we grow? Why do we age? More than this, however, it is a brilliant narrative history of what happens when things go wrong. Here are the stories of historically important and bizarre cases: of a French convent girl who found herself changing sex upon puberty and her miserable fate in the gutters of Paris; of children, invariably stillborn, who have cyclopia (one eye located beneath their nasal cavity); of a tribe of pygmies in the Andaman Islands and a village of Ecuadorian dwarves: of a remarkably hairy family who were kept at the Burmese Royal Court for four generations (and from whom Darwin took one of his keenest insights into heredity). From each, important lessons are drawn that illustrate the amazing nature of cellular growth and how it works.

Looking forward..

Due September: Cara is looking forward to more of P J Tracy's fast-paced, black humour in **Live Bait**, which includes some of the characters from **Want to Play?** (Tp \$29.95). Oh, **Play That Thing** (Hb \$49.95) is a fast-moving, picaresque sequel to Roddy Doyle's novel about the Irish War of Independence and Civil War, **A Star Called Henry** (Pb \$22.95). On the run from his former commanders, IRA assassin Henry ends up in the USA and copes indifferently with the gang-dominated New York of the early 1920s and the worlds of Chicago jazz and the migrant workers of the Depression.

Looking back...

Selkirk's Island by Diana Souhami (Pb \$22.95) is the fascinating and true story of Alexander Selkirk, a pirate and buccaneer whose Captain was none other than the scurrilous William Dampier. After a mutiny with Dampier, a small party of the mutineers landed on the tiny island of Juan Fernandez, off the coast of Chile, which was often used as a replenishing point by passing ships. Selkirk refused to re-board a worm-eaten vessel and was thus marooned on the island for three long years. Luckily for him, the island was a seal refuge and plentiful in fresh water and wild herbs, and goats had been introduced by previous voyages. His story of survival was the inspiration for Dafoe's **Robinson Crusoe** (Pb \$7.95), whose island was more a mythical, than physical, place. Selkirk's life after rescue was unremarkable and he eventually died at sea of yellow fever. Souhami relates the fate of the island, now trying to recover from environmental damage. One of the best written science-travelogues I have read.

Ann

Kath is enjoying **The Coroner** by Derek Hand (Tp \$29.95), which looks into the seedier side of crime in NSW. As the State Coroner, Hand has viewed the corpses of the likes of Anita Cobby and Michael Hutchence. Despite media hype, he must unravel the clues from these bodies to draw his own conclusions.

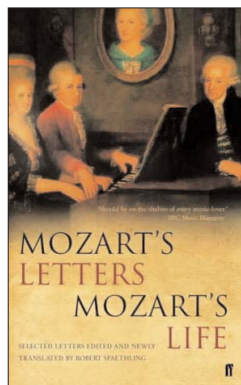
Cara enjoyed **Cooking with Fernet Branca** by James Hamilton Patterson (Pb \$29.95). Gerald Samper, an effete Englishman and ghost-writer for celebrities, lives on a hilltop in Tuscany. His idyll is shattered by the arrival of Marta, a vulgar woman from the Soviet Republic. The neighbours' lives disastrously intertwine in a brilliant satire on the English obsession with Tuscany. "Wittier than Bruno Bouchet and cleverer and more acerbic than Margo Kingston."

Adrian is not surprised that **The Known World** by Edward Jones (Tp \$29.95) won this year's **Pulitzer Prize**. In a strange scenario in Virginia, 1860, a freed slave-turned-landowner goes to market to buy slaves of his own. Peppered with disembodied but interesting facts, this is an emotionally complex novel.

Mozart's Letters, Mozart's Life

Robert SPAETHLING 480pp Pb \$24.95

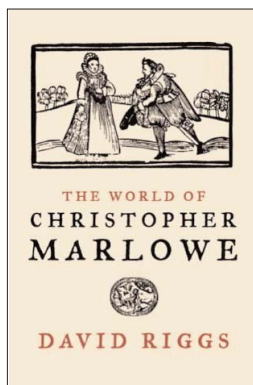
What was Mozart really like? Responsible? Fun-loving? Foul-mouthed? Sublime? Reading these sparkling new translations of more than 275 of his letters and postscripts written over a span of almost 22 years, we learn in his own words that he was all of these and much more. Here is the composer at his most intimate and unguarded, expressing his feelings about life, love, music and the world around him. This scintillating collection is the only edition of Mozart's letters now available. It's a must-have for anyone with an interest not only in the life of the great composer, but also 18th-century cultural life in general.



The World of Christopher Marlowe

David RIGGS 411pp Hb \$65.00

This is the definitive book about the man who revolutionised English drama and English poetry - and was murdered in his prime. Riggs evokes the atmosphere and texture of Marlowe's life, from the stench and poverty of a childhood spent near Canterbury's abattoirs to the fanatical pursuit of classical learning at school. Marlowe won a place at Cambridge University, where he entered its world of 18-hour working days, religious intrigue and twilight homosexuality. The gifted student was not immune to the passions and fears of the wider society, and Riggs describes the mood of England in those years when Elizabeth's crown was anything but secure, and Spain and the Papacy were determined to overthrow her regime. Looming above everything is the Elizabethan state and its spy rings, with which Marlowe was already involved by the time he left Cambridge. His undercover missions brought him into contact with Catholic conspirators who were plotting to kill the Queen; yet as a playwright and thinker he was attracted to the most unorthodox and threatening idea of all - atheism. Marlowe brought a wonderful new lightness and musicality to English verse, but was held in little esteem during his lifetime.

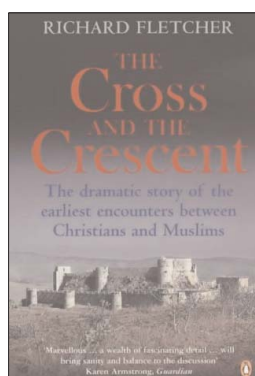


The Cross and the Crescent

The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims

Richard FLETCHER 182pp Pb \$22.95

A short account of the relations between Islam and Christianity from Mohammed to the reformation by England's leading mediaeval historian. Fletcher argues that though there were trading and cultural interactions between Islam and Christianity during the period when Arabs controlled most of the Mediterranean world, neither side was remotely interested in the religion of the other. Christian and Moslem lived side by side in a state of mutual religious aversion. Given these circumstances, if religious passions were to be stirred up, confrontation would probably be violent. He shows how religious misunderstanding and antagonism between the peoples of the book have been present since their earliest encounters.



The Cradle of Thought

Exploring the Origins of Thinking

Peter HOBSON

296pp Pb \$25.00

This volume presents a psychologist's insight into how infants learn to think. It argues that thinking arises from the nature and quality of the relationship between parent and child in the first 18 months of life. It draws on 20 years of clinical experience, case histories and research.

A Shostakovich Casebook

Malcolm Hamrick BROWN (editor)

408pp Hb \$85.00

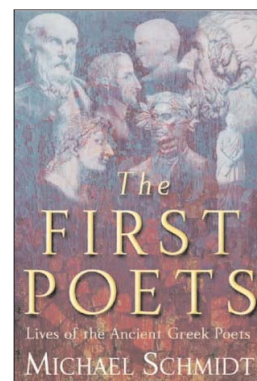
The popular image of Shostakovich is largely based on **Testimony** by Volkov (Pb \$43.00), which purports to be Shostakovich's memoirs. Affecting though **Testimony** is - concerning, as it does, Shostakovich's struggle with the totalitarian Soviet regime - there has long been doubts expressed about its authenticity. These doubts have been expressed by people with some creditability, including Shostakovich's widow and former students. This book collects together important documents which will be essential reading for anyone wanting a balanced view. Incidentally, a new book by Volkov, **Shostakovich and Stalin** (Tp \$65) is also available.

The First Poets

Lives of the Ancient Greek Poets

Michael SCHMIDT 449pp Hb \$59.95

European poetry takes its bearings from a brilliant constellation of classical Greek writers whose lives (where they are known as legend or fact) and work (as it survives) continue to inform our writing and reading, even as the original languages, once central to a humane education, falls into disuse. The poets' stories, their loves, lusts and longings, the forms they devised, their rhetorical strategies, are vital in urgent ways - modern poets such as Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney have drawn inspiration from them. Schmidt writes about the Greek poets who have had most influence. The obvious ones, Homer and Sappho, gain from the presence of important lesser-known writers including the lyricist Anacreon, Hipponax and Theocritus, the father of pastoral. Where the lives are verifiable, they are fascinating. Where true lives are shrouded in mystery, later writers and readers provide narratives of their own. We know more about Homer than Homer could ever know about himself. The classics have been alive for more than a millennium in our literature. These are poets out of whom our imaginations, like our literatures, are woven.

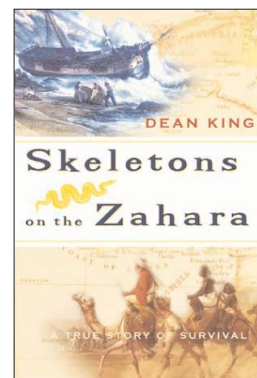


Skeletons on the Zahara

A True Story of Survival

Dean KING 351pp Hb \$54.95

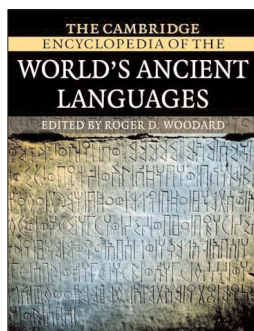
The western Sahara is a baking hot and desolate place, home only to nomads and their camels, and to locusts, snails and thorny scrub. Its barren and ever-changing coastline has baffled sailors for centuries. On 28 August 1815, the US brig *Commerce* was dashed against Cape Bojador and lost, although through bravery and quick thinking the ship's captain, James Riley, managed to lead all of his crew to safety. What followed was an extraordinary and desperate battle for survival in the face of human hostility, hunger, dehydration and despair, as the crew were captured, robbed and enslaved. Sometimes together, more often apart, the sailors were dragged or driven through the desert by their new owners, who neither spoke their language nor cared for their plight. Reduced to drinking urine (their own and the camels'), flayed by the sun, crippled by walking miles across burning stones and sand, and losing over half of their body weights, some of them nevertheless held on to their sanity. And over time, James Riley and Sidi Hamet, slave and captor, came to recognise in each other men worthy of respect. The ransom, not only of Riley but also of a handful of his crew, suddenly seemed possible. But Sidi Hamet had enemies of his own and, to reach safety, the sailors and their saviour had to overcome not only the desert but also the greed and anger of those who would keep them in captivity.



The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages

Roger WOODARD (ed) 1,116pp Hb \$399.00

This superb book is the first comprehensive reference work treating all of the languages of antiquity. It combines full linguistic coverage of all the well-documented ancient languages, representing numerous language families from around the globe. Each chapter of the work focuses on an individual language or, in some instances, a set of closely related varieties of a language. Providing a full descriptive presentation, each of these chapters examines the writing systems, phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon of that language, and places the language within its proper linguistic and historical context. While designed primarily for linguistic professionals and students, this work will prove invaluable to all whose studies take them into the realm of ancient language.



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Ann

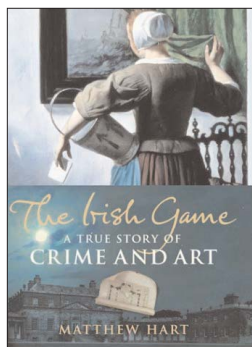


The Irish Game

A True Story of Crime and Art

Matthew HART 220pp Hb \$48.95

In the crowded annals of art theft, no case has matched - for sheer criminal panache - the heist at Russborough House in Ireland in May 1986. The Garda knew right away that the mastermind was a seedy, rotund and brazen Dublin gangster named Martin Cahill. Yet the great plunder - including a Gainsborough, a Goya, two Rubens and Vermeer's *Lady Writing a Letter with Her Maid* - remained maddeningly at large year after year. Cahill taunted the police with a string of other crimes, but in the end it was the paintings that brought him low. The challenge of disposing of such famous works forced him to reach outside his familiar world into the international arena, and when he did his pursuers were waiting. The movie-perfect sting that broke Cahill uncovered an astonishing maze of banking and drug-dealing connections that re-defined the way police view art theft.



The Wreck of Western Culture

John CARROLL

360pp Pb \$35.00

Humanism built Western civilisation as we know it today. Its achievements include the liberation of the individual, democracy, universal rights and widespread prosperity and comfort. Its ambassadors are the heroes of modern culture: Erasmus, Holbein, Kant, Shakespeare, Velázquez, Descartes and Freud. Those who sought to contain humanism's pride within a frame of higher truth - Luther, Calvin, Poussin, Kierkegaard - could barely interrupt its torrential progress. Those who sought to reform humanism's tenets - Marx, Darwin and Nietzsche - were tested by the success of their own prophecies. So runs the approved view; it is not shared by John Carroll. Here he significantly reworks his thesis on the failure of the West's 500-year experiment with humanism and its dire cultural consequences. Originally published in 1993, this edition is rewritten, expanded and updated in light of recent events and closes with September 11, 2001.

The Spook's Apprentice

Joseph DELANEY

325pp Hb \$24.95

Tom is the seventh son of a seventh son and his wise mother knows his destiny is to be the greatest of all Spooks. To this end, he is apprenticed to Mr Gregory to learn the ways of a Spook - the person who keeps the people of the County safe from evil and its manifestations. Although Tom doesn't think he is very brave, he is determined and conscientious and when he is tricked into freeing a powerfully malevolent witch, he has to face his fears in order to undo his mistakes. This is a truly wonderful read - full of imaginative details and believable characters, finely written with good pace and atmosphere. Even better, there will be more to come. My pick of the year so far!

The Book of Dead Days

Marcus SEDGWICK

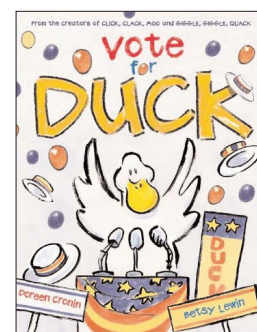
264pp Pb \$14.95

The *Dead Days* are those between Christmas and New Year, when the normal order of life is upset by uncontrollable magic and restless spirits roam the world. Valerian is a magician who has made a pact with an evil demon, and the time to pay is due. His neglected and mistreated servant, Boy, is drawn into Valerian's malevolent plans and needs the help of Willow, a girl fleeing from her own problems, to survive. An imaginative and sweeping tale, set in a decaying urban sprawl balanced on the cusp of superstition and science.

Vote for Duck

Doreen CRONIN & Betsy LEWIN (Illus) 38pp Pb \$12.95

Running a farm is very hard work, so when Farmer Brown delegates chores to the animals, Duck rebels. Tired of picking bits of grass and espresso beans out of his feathers, he runs an election campaign for a kinder, gentler farm. Winning that is just the start of his political career... Adults will love this book for its sly humour and children for its silliness. From the creators of **Click Clack Moo** and **Giggle Giggle Quack** (both Pb \$12.95)



Being Bindy

Alyssa BRUGMAN

197pp Pb \$15.95

Bindy has had the same best friend since pre-school; now in junior high school, things are changing. Janey is interested in things Bindy doesn't care about - boys, clothes, magazines, boys - and she wants to experiment with more adult preoccupations and new friends. Worse still, Bindy's father and Janey's mother (both single parents) are becoming too close for the girls' comfort. A charming novel about being on the brink of adolescence, with a sweet and sensible main character, who knows her own mind but has yet to grow into her confidence. Ages 12-14.

Right Where it Hurts

David HILL

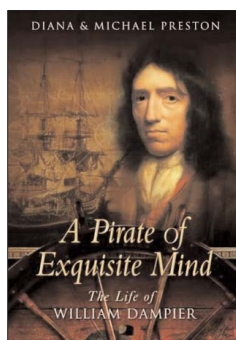
128pp Pb \$13.95

Slade, whose talents are writing poetry and cycling, moves to Green Harbour with his mother and sort-of-stepfather. It's a place where very rich people live, or very poor - which describes Slade's family. The first day at his new school, he takes an instant dislike to Mallory, a reserved, talented, rich girl. It doesn't take long, though, before he discovers there's a lot more to her than meets the eye. Pressured by her parents to achieve and work hard, something has to give. An interesting novel, told in Slade's voice, and an arresting portrayal of a young man who is not stereotypical, learning that other people are also not to be typecast. Ages 14-16.

Here's a title for those of us who love literary gossip. **Rupert Hart-Davis: Man of Letters** by Philip Ziegler (\$69.95 Hb 332pp incl index). I always imagined Rupert as small and cuddly, but in fact he is tall and of most military appearance, as you will see from the dust jacket of this fascinating book. The urbane and famous publisher spent time with Heinemann, Jonathan Cape and the Book Society before setting up his own publishing house with David Garrett. This title is indent only (which means the distributors are not holding local stock), so if there isn't one in Biography when you call in, please ask and we'll let you know when new stock arrives.

If you enjoyed the series on ABC TV about great engineering feats, do look in our Science: History & Biography section for similar books, such as **A Thing in Disguise: The Visionary Life of Joseph Paxton** by Kate Colquhoun (Pb \$24.95), about Chatsworth gardener and designer of the Crystal Palace (the site of the Great Exhibition). For more on the Victorian passion for scientific enquiry, look in British History for the famous book by Asa Briggs, **Victorian Things** (\$24.95 Pb 406pp incl index) and A N Wilson's **The Victorians** (\$29.95 Pb 738pp incl index). Abbey's always has great backlist titles like these.

I've just read and enjoyed **A Pirate of Exquisite Mind: The Life of William Dampier - Explorer, Naturalist and Buccaneer** by Diana and Michael Preston (\$32.95 Tp 372pp incl index). It is strange that Dampier, whose work influenced Cook, Darwin and authors such as Defoe and Swift, is not better known (although he does have his place in Western Australian history). He brilliantly and carefully recorded the many strange and fascinating people and places he visited in his adventures. Perhaps he was just not the "right sort of chap", although being a buccaneer was fine in those days?



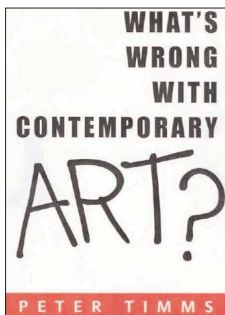
Do you get our email Science Alerts? These are very useful if you're interested in science since there are new titles arriving all the time and we can't fit them all in the monthly *Abbey's Advocate*. If you are receiving this email, you will notice quite a few titles on Astronomy (one of David Hall's personal interests), so I thought I might add a few titles from the shelves just to spark your interest. There is a series of books published by Apogee which cover the various *NASA Mission Reports*, each containing either a CD-ROM or DVD with hours of video and images. Titles include **Friendship 7**, **Freedom 7**, **Gemini 6**, **Gemini 7**, **Gemini 12**, **Apollo 7**, **Apollo 11** and **On to Mars**. Prices range from \$39.95 to \$63.95 for **Space Shuttle STS1-5**.

I do want to recommend to you an excellent book by a previous *Vogel Award* winner. Andrew McGahan's **White Earth** (\$29.95 Tp) is set on the Darling Downs (although slightly altered geographically) and concerns an old farmer's love of his land, as opposed to a similar love of the land by local aborigines. Searching for an heir, the man tries to instil a similar ruthless love in the heart of his great-nephew. The land itself is a major character and it is a pleasure to encounter this view. Very well written. His previous books were *Praise* (now out of print) and **1988** (\$21 Pb).

Pam Peters' **The Cambridge Guide to English Usage** (\$75 Hb 622pp) has had great reviews, as much for her easy style as for her erudition. Because so many people now have their own word processor, more of us are responsible for making our own editing decisions about style, grammar or best word usage, but even if you don't do much writing you'll enjoy browsing through this. Don't confuse it with her earlier book, **The Cambridge Australian English Style Guide** (845pp), which we also stock upstairs in Writing & Publishing and which many will prefer. The hardback is currently available at the paperback price of only \$43.95, which is a great buy. Intended more for the serious professional is **The Chicago Manual of Style for Writers, Editors and Publishers** 15th edition (\$110 Hb 956pp). We still have one copy of the 14th edition (Hb reduced price \$75).

Lindy Jones has been doing a bit of colonising upstairs and her excellent Children's section has expanded to take up a small part of the space for Writing & Publishing. Here she now has a marvellous selection of pop-ups, flap books, jigsaw books, tactile books and cloth or bath books. In the extended children's paperback section, the Younger Readers area is now better seen and is still followed by the treasure trove of Nursery Rhymes and Dr Seuss books in the last bay. In Younger Readers, you will find thin books with chapter headings and slightly larger print, just right for readers setting out on their own, such as *Tashi* books by Anna Fienberg (\$11.95) or the *Boyz Rule!* series by Felice Arena and Phil Kettle (\$9.95). Nice line illustrations in both.

There's a nice sensible book from Peter Timms, **What's Wrong with Contemporary Art?** (\$29.95 Pb), in Art General. Here is someone with an aesthetic appreciation of art who also admires gardeners and carpenters and can write with sympathy. Take a look at his earlier book, **Making Nature: Six Walks in the Bush** (\$27.95 Tp), which you will find in Environmental Science.



I shifted Stephen Bell's **Australia's Money Mandarins: The Reserve Bank and the Politics of Money** (\$59.95 Hb) from Business Studies to Economics (which I think is a most fascinating subject) and in the process had a look at the many different books in Business Studies, which has subsections for Management, Sales & Marketing, Careers and Practical. There is a new book from Charles Geisst, author of **Wheels of Fortune: The History of Speculation from Scandal to Respectability** (\$28.95 Pb 368pp incl index). It is called **Deals of the Century: Wall Street, Mergers and the Making of Modern America** (\$49.95 Hb). Or you can read about **The Big End of Town: Big Business and Corporate Leadership in 20th Century Australia** (\$59.95 Hb 310pp incl index) by Fleming, Merrett & Ville. In Business Practical, you can have **How to Get Started in Active Trading and Investing** by Nassar (\$24.95 Pb) or Dominick Misino's **Negotiate and Win** (\$34.95 Hb), which has the alarming subtitle, **Proven Strategies from the NYPD's Top Hostage Negotiator!**

I was really impressed with the Random House distributors, who had Bill Clinton's book **My Life** (\$59.95 Hb) in our shop on the same day that copies were out in America! A real world-wide release. In spite of its 957 pages, this is expected to be the biggest selling biography ever. Clinton said in his speech to the American Booksellers' Convention that he quite liked President Bush Senior and that he believed you should "govern by evidence, not theology". Nothing to say about the present incumbent. Hillary's **Living History** (\$22.95 Pb) is #4 on the Biography scale at the moment, almost twice as many as **Angela's Ashes** (\$19.95 Pb).

Interestingly, the biggest selling Biography title ever is about a man few people know. It is Mitch Albom's **Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man and Life's Greatest Lesson** (\$20.95 Pb), which you will find in Biography under S for Schwartz, as in Morrie Schwartz. Although I agree a great biography can be about a person not especially well-known, I was interested to check this out. We sell one or two copies every month. Written by a journalist who revisits his old professor just as the man is dying from Lou Gehrig's Disease, I think it is less of a biography and more of a life manual. The fact that three documentaries were made about Morrie's predicament, and also that the book was recommended by Oprah, no doubt added to sales. I remember when it was thought that television would be bad for sales of books. It is indeed the opposite.

David Suchet has been prowling around our TV screens again as Hercule Poirot. In case you need reminding, here at Abbey's - "*where a good crime can be had by all*" - we have *all* of Agatha Christie's titles in paperback and most of them on CD or cassette.

Journalist Luke Slattery is not the only one who has read **Hypnerotomachia Poliphili** by Francesco Golonna (\$60 Hb), the 'hook' that forms the premise of the latest puzzling thriller, **Rule of Four** by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason (\$29.95 Pb). We have sold four copies of this erotic medieval text, so see if you can do a bit of one-up-manship at your next dinner party?

I've read two very entertaining novels. Laurie Graham (remember her, she wrote **Future Homemakers of America** (\$22.95 Pb) and **The Unfortunates** (\$21.95 Pb), among other titles) has another sassy adventure to tell in **Mr Starlight** (\$29.95 Tp 290pp), this time about two brothers who leave Birmingham for the Big Time in America. "Sassy" is a somewhat old-fashioned word, but it suits this book, which has exactly the right mixture of nostalgic observation and fun. You will really enjoy this story and you might remember Liberace at the same time.

Julian Fellowes (Lord Kilwillie from *Monarch of the Glen* and scriptwriter for *Gosford Park*) has put his esoteric expertise about the British upper classes to work again in a novel called, appropriately, **Snobs** (\$29.95 Pb 264pp), about a young woman "on the make" who marries the heir to the Marquess of Uckfield. Their progress through life is narrated by a friend, an observant small-time actor, and commented on by their mother-in-law. Jane Austen and Evelyn Waugh would be at home in this book and I think it is the modern equivalent of Nancy Mitford's **Noblesse Oblige** (Pb \$26.95), which you will find in Linguistics. Great fun.

Keep well.

Eve

Abbey's Bestsellers - July 2004

Non-Fiction

- 1 **Mission Impossible: The Sheiks, the US and the Future of Iraq** Quarterly Essay # 14
by Paul McGeogh (Pb \$13.95)
- 2 **A Short History of Nearly Everything**
by Bill Bryson (Pb \$26.95)
- 3 **Not Happy, John!** by Margo Kingston (Pb \$24.95)
- 4 **Pompeii: A Sourcebook**
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- 5 **Axis of Deceit** by Andrew Wilkie (Pb \$29.95)
- 6 **Stasiland** by Ann Funder (Tp \$24.00)
- 7 **Status Anxiety** by Alain de Botton (Hb \$49.95)
- 8 **The Fabric of the Cosmos: Space, Time and the Texture of Reality** by Brian Greene (Hb \$49.95)
- 9 **Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation** by Lynn Truss (Hb \$29.95)
- 10 **After the Ice: Global Human History 20,000-5,000 BC**
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Fiction

- 1 **The Da Vinci Code** by Dan Brown (Pb \$19.95)
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by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (Tp \$29.95)
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- 6 **The Transit of Venus** by Shirley Hazzard (Tp \$22.95)
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- 8 **The White Earth** by Andrew McGahan (Tp \$29.95)
- 9 **Midden** by Tom Sharpe (Pb \$21.95)
- 10 **The Life of Pi** by Yann Martel (Pb \$22.95)

Now in Paperback

The Queen's Necklace by Frances Mossiker \$24.95

Marie Antoinette was never far from scandal, but it was her involvement in the notorious affair of 'the Queen's Necklace' that dealt a mortal blow and damaged the prestige of the French royal family. A fascinating true-crime story involving Marie Antoinette set in the period of Revolutionary France.

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James Cook sailed across perilous tropical seas, survived hurricanes and volcanic eruptions and discovered unknown lands and peoples, making him an icon of imperial history. Yet, as Anne Salmond shows, the story of these epic South Sea journeys is far more than one of conquest and control.

The Caliban Shore: The Tale of the "Grosvenor" Castaways by Stephen Taylor \$29.95

The enthralling story of a famous 18th-century shipwreck - and of what befell the ship's castaways on the Wild Coast of Africa.

The Sewing Circles of Herat: My Afghan Years by Christina Lamb \$24.95

10 years ago, Christina Lamb reported on the war the Afghan people were fighting against the Soviet Union. Now, back in Afghanistan, she has written an extraordinary memoir of her love affair with the country and its people.

Gulag by Anne Applebaum \$26.95

Winner of the *Pulitzer Prize* 2004, this is the only major history in any language to draw together the mass of memoirs and writings on the Soviet camps that have been published in Russia and the West. Using these, as well as her own original research in NKVD archives and interviews with survivors, Applebaum has written a fully documented history of the camp system: from its origins under the tsars, to its colossal expansion under Stalin's reign of terror, its zenith in the late 1940s and eventual collapse in the era of glasnost.

Enemies of Rome: Barbarians Through Roman Eyes by I M Ferris \$22.95

This is a landmark study in the history of Roman art, inviting a completely new understanding of Roman identity and artistic tradition.

Courtesans by Katie Hickman \$24.95

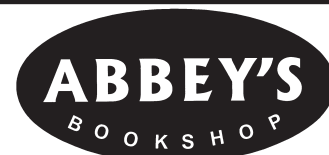
Focuses on the exceptional stories of five outstanding women. Sophia Baddeley, Elizabeth Armistead, Harriette Wilson, Cora Pearl and Catherine Walters may have had very different personalities and talents, but their lives exemplify the dazzling existence of the courtesan.



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Contributors: Eve Abbey, Michelle Ashman, David Hall, Adrian Hardingham, Lindy Jones, Shelley Kay, Ann Leahy & Cara Willetts.

Binding Key

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