## Issue #243

## March 2010

A Free Newsletter for Abbey's Customers

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ABBE

## STEPHEN KNIGHT - THUR 11 MARCH 6PM



#### Stephen Knight will be in-store to discuss and sign his books: Robin Hood

A Mythic Biography 272pp Pb \$33.95 The best way to get at the essence of the Robin Hood myth, Knight believes, is in terms not of chronological and generic

progression, but of the purposes served by heroes. Knight identifies a particular model of the hero, mythic or biographic, which dominated in certain periods and in certain genres, and explores their interrelations, implications and historical and socio-political contexts.

#### Merlin: Knowledge and Power Through the Ages 288pp Hb \$44.95

Knight traces the myth of Merlin back to its earliest roots in the early Welsh figure of Myrddin. He then follows Merlin as he is re-imagined through centuries of literature and art, beginning with Geoffrey of Monmouth, whose immensely popular History

of the Kings of Britain (1138) transmitted the story of Merlin to Europe at large. A mythic biography of the Celtic-British mythic figure of Arthurian legend.

#### EASTER & ANZAC DAY HOURS 2 Apr Good Friday Closed 3 Apr Saturday 8.30am - 6pm 4 Apr Sunday 10am - 5pm 5 Apr Monday 10am - 5pm 26 Apr Anzac Day Public Holiday Monday 10am - 5pm

## **RICHARD DAWKINS & AC GRAYLING**

Acclaimed author, atheist, educator and scientist Richard Dawkins and philosopher du jour A C Grayling are in town both talking about evolution and religion, Abbey's has a special offer on a selection of books on this debate.

#### 20% off these evolution/religion titles during March

| The Genesis Enigma by Andrew Parker | Tp <del>\$34.95</del> \$27.95 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins | Pb <del>\$27.95</del> \$22.35 |
| The Story of God by Robert Winston  | Pb <del>\$29.95</del> \$23.95 |
| The Case for God by Karen Armstrong | Tp <del>\$32.95</del> \$26.35 |
| RICHARD DAWKINS                     |                               |
| The Greatest Show on Earth:         |                               |
| RICHARDS The Evidence for Evolution | Tp \$35.00                    |



### The Evidence for Evolution Dawkins takes on the Creationists with a brilliant and uncompromising look at the incontrovertible evidence for Darwin's

theory of evolution. This is a thrilling tribute to science, the wonders of nature and his ultimate hero, Charles Darwin. A C GRAYLING



#### Thinking of Answers:

Questions in the Philosophy of Everyday Life Hb \$35.00 Believing that philosophy is a natural part of everyday life, Grayling tackles many of the most fundamental problems facing anyone who wishes to lead a considered life.

Ideas that Matter: A Personal Guide for the 21st Century Tp \$35.00 Fundamentalism, environmentalism and bioethics are defining our future just as Marxism, feminism or existentialism has influenced our present. So what do we need to know as we move into the 21st century? This is Grayling's personal and heartfelt guide to the ideas, past and present, that shape our world.



#### Mr Rosenblum's List

Natasha SOLOMONS 320pp Hb \$29.99 Jack Rosenblum just wants to belong. After fleeing pre-war Nazi Germany, he wants to make a home for his wife and daughter, somewhere safe where they never have to flee for their lives again. On disembarking in England, he is given a pamphlet on how to assimilate, which becomes his guide to all things English. He makes a list and slowly but surely crosses off all the items on it - except for one: to join a golf club. His wife Sadie can't leave

behind her sadness, particularly as her whole family dies in the war, and she cannot understand Jack's desire to leave behind his previous identity. When Jack decides, after numerous knock backs, that the only way to join a golf club is to build his own golf course, and buys a derelict cottage on many acres in Dorset to do just that, he sets in place changes which will ultimately fulfil his dreams... This is a lovely, warm and tender novel, full of wonderfully quirky natives, quaint country customs and with an indefatigable hero. I enjoyed this from one end to the other, and highly recommend it for anyone who needs a literary pick-me-up! Due Mar Lindy



#### Solar Ian McEWAN

288pp Tp \$32.95

Purported to be a novel about climate change this topic comes in via a side entrance. Michael Beard is a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, now in his late 50s, bald, overweight, an inveterate philanderer whose best work is behind him. His fifth marriage floundering, (this time it is his wife who is having an affair to spite him), he accepts

an invitation to join a group of artists on an expedition to the Artic Circle to witness climate change firsthand. Physically unfit for such a jaunt, he struggles with the equipment, and despite the goodwill and intentions of the group, the shocking disorder of the boot room seems to sum up the challenge facing humanity. Beard reflects "How were they to save the earth - assuming it needed saving, which he doubted - when it was so much larger than the boot room?" McEwan shows extraordinary restraint; he deals with all the big issues of climate change and has obviously done his research, but at no point does he lecture or browbeat. He drops the facts and arguments incidentally into the story via his absorbing and deeply flawed main character. Infinitely quotable - "he was suffused with the pleasant illusion of liking people" or "No one

can predict which of life's vexations insomnia will favour" - McEwan's language throughout is mature and beautifully distilled, like a perfectly aged wine. Magnificent! Ann



Diggers and Greeks The Australian Campaign in Greece and Crete

Maria HILL 496pp Hb \$59.95 Little is known about the real reasons that Australia committed troops to Greece. Hill has trawled through archives in Athens and Canberra to show that, while miscommunication between **GREEKS** the Greek General Staff and the Allied forces was frequent, the situation on the ground was far more

complex. Her book also shows why the campaigns on mainland Greece and Crete compelled people to behave in altruistic ways, even when it meant placing themselves in danger. It proves that it is possible to form successful relations with people of a completely different culture in conflict situations. Due Mar



# FICTION



Fear Factor **Terror Incognito** 

Meenakshi BHARAT & Sharon RUNDLE (Editors) 288pp Pb \$24.99

This is a collection of 20 unforgettable stories by wellknown and emerging authors from Australia and the Indian subcontinent: David Malouf, Salman Rushdie, Neelum Saran Gour, Tom Keneally, Rosie Scott, Jeremy Fisher, Susanne Gervay, Tabish Khair, Denise Leith, Andrew Kwong, Devika Brendon, Gulzar, Meera

Kant, Guy Scotton, Sujata Sankranti, Kiran Nargarkar, Temsula Ao, Jaspreet Singh, Janhavi Acharekar and Meenakshi Bharat; with a foreword by Yasmine Gooneratne. A unique collaboration between Australia and India, the stories are protests against the phenomenon of modern terror. They do not offer solutions. Instead, they lead readers along the hidden paths of an unfamiliar psychology to make their own discoveries. Due Mar



#### Martin Westley Takes a Walk

Andrew HUMPHREYS Tp \$32.95 "People were supposed to remember who they were and where they lived. They were supposed to remember who loved them and who did not and where their grandmothers were born. Martin Jeremiah Westley didn't remember any of it..." Martin has lost his memory and quite possibly his mind. He has a wife who despises him, a son who ignores him and a daughter who is drifting away. He has a nice house, a not-so-nice factory and an aggressively attractive

mistress. But something is deeply, terribly wrong, and he knows he needs to make it right. So he walks. Along the way he picks up a cowboy hat, a sense of purpose and an Indian who isn't really an Indian. And if he's lucky, he might just recover his life. A darkly comic parable about families and the wonderful opportunities that errant kites can provide to start life anew. Due Mar



#### South of Broad Pat CONROY

528pp Tp \$32.99

"An unlikely group of Charlestonian teens forms a friendship in 1969, just as the certainties and verities of southern society are quaked by the social and political forces unleashed earlier in the decade. They come from all walks of life, from the privileged homes of the aristocracy, from an orphanage, from a broken home where an alcoholic mother and her twins live in fear of a murderous father, from the home of public high school's first black

football coach, and from the home of the same school's principal. The group's fulcrum, Leopold Bloom King, second son of an ex-nun Joyce scholar, who is also the school's principal, and a science-teacher father, is just climbing out of childhood mental illness after having discovered his handsome, popular, athletic, scholarly older brother dead from suicide. Over the next two decades, these friends find success in journalism, the bar, law enforcement, music and Hollywood. Echoing some themes from his earlier novels, Conroy fleshes out the almost impossibly dramatic details of each of the friends' lives in this vast, intricate story, and he reveals truths about love, lust, classism, racism, religion and what it means to be shaped by a particular place, be it Charleston, South Carolina, or anywhere else..." *Booklist* 



#### Trespass

272pp Tp \$32.95

Rose TREMAIN In a silent valley stands an isolated stone farmhouse, the Mas Lunel. Its owner is Aramon Lunel, an alcoholic so haunted by his violent past that he's become incapable of all meaningful action, letting his hunting dogs starve and his land go to ruin. Meanwhile, his sister, Audrun, alone in her modern bungalow within sight of the Mas Lunel, dreams of exacting retribution for the unspoken betrayals that have blighted her life. Into this closed Cevenol world comes Anthony Verey, a wealthy but disillusioned

antiques dealer from London. Now in his 60s, he hopes to remake his life in France and begins looking at properties in the region. From the moment he arrives at the Mas Lunel, a frightening and unstoppable series of consequences is set in motion. Two worlds and two cultures collide. Ancient boundaries are crossed, taboos are broken, a violent crime is committed. And all the time the Cevennes hills remain, as cruel and seductive as ever. Due Mar



## The Hopeless Life of Charlie Summers

Paul TORDAY 288pp Tp \$32.99 Hector Chetwode-Talbot, Eck to his friends, has left the army after a rather nasty moment in Colombia. From a privileged background, he is slightly at a loss as to what to do next, when he is approached by an old army pal, Bilbo Mountwilliam. Bilbo runs an investment fund company and business

is booming. Bilbo persuades Eck to join the company as a 'greeter', for a person with Eck's list of contacts is an easy route to a rich seam of moneyed clients. All Eck has to do is supply the contacts with entertainment and large G&Ts and then the fund managers will do the rest. Soon Eck is able to buy himself a luxury sports car and decadent flat in the city. All that is missing in his life is a woman. It is on a golfing trip to France with his friend Henry Newark that Eck first meets Charlie Summers, a fly-by-night entrepreneur who is hiding out in France after a "misunderstanding with Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue". Charlie's latest scheme is to import Japanese dog food into the UK. Henry casually mentions that Charlie should 'look us up' if he is ever in Gloucestershire. Not only does Charlie Summers look Henry up, he arrives with his suitcase, intent on staying with the Newarks and relaunching his dog food business in their area. But with the financial crash looming, Eck begins to ask himself if they are so very different. From the author of The Girl on the Landing (Pb \$22.99) Due Mar



#### The Surrendered Chang-Rae LEE

480pp Tp \$32.99

June Han has forged a life thousands of miles from her birthplace: she has built a business in New York, survived a husband, and borne a child. But her past holds more secrets than she has ever been able to tell, and 30 years after her escape from war-ravaged Korea, the time has come for her to confront them. Hector Brennan, fighter, drinker and "failure grand and total", is the man who long

ago saved her life. And between them lies the story of the beautiful, damaged Sylvie Tanner, whose elusive love they both once sought. On a journey that takes them from the scorched hillsides and abandoned rice paddies of a shattered Korea to a blood-soaked, century-old Italian battlefield, together June and Hector go in search of their past, bound together by a legacy of shocking acts of violence and love. Due Mar



Nazi Literature in the Americas Roberto BOLANO 272pp Tp \$34.99 This book presents itself as an encyclopedia of extremely right-wing writers. Composed of short biographies of imaginary pan-American authors (the nations with the most representatives are Argentina, with eight, and the USA, with seven), Bolano describes, in 14 thematic sections, the writers' lives, politics, and literary works. He includes bibliographies, cross-references, and

an epilogue For Monsters. Although the writers are invented, they are all carefully and credibly situated in real literary worlds: his characters encounter Allen Ginsberg, Octavio Paz, and Lezama Lima. Remarkably inventive, chilling, and witty, this book offers keen insights into the workings of an extraordinarily fecund literary imagination. Due Mar



MADELEINE ST TOHN

#### Gravel

Peter GOLDSWORTHY 272pp Pb \$29.95 In these unsettling stories - of which there are six short and two long - the characters want things that run counter to their sense of themselves. They are drawn outside their comfort zone into situations that are sometimes amusing, sometimes undignifying and never quite what they expect. Due Mar

#### A Stairway to Paradise

Madeline ST JOHN 208pp Tp \$29.95 Alex and Andrew are friends. And Barbara is a goddess. Here is the eternal triangle, the story of three people in an unhappy tangle of emotions, none able to articulate the precise quality of their longing and dissatisfaction. Are any of them truly interested in reaching the 'paradise' they claim to be seeking, or are they actually trying to avoid it? In St John's hands, what is commonplace is transformed and transcendent. Due Mar

## FICTION



#### Major Pettigrew's Last Stand Helen SIMONSON

320pp Tp \$32.99

Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired) is the quintessential English gentleman-widower in a small village. Shooting and fishing in season, the importance of manners and proper behaviour, stiff upper lip and tea brewed from leaves, never bags - these things typify him. When his younger brother dies suddenly, however, the Major finds himself in (genteel) conflict with his sister-in-law and his dreadfully self-absorbed son, who do not value things as

he does. It is also the catalyst for a growing friendship with the widowed Mrs Ali, of Pakistani descent, who runs the local shop and who loves literature as much as the Major does. A charming and sympathetic novel of manners with a most unlikely hero and a happy ending, and thoroughly recommended! Due Mar Lindy

#### **Eternal Son**

#### Cristavo TEZZA

256pp Tp \$32.95

Tezza draws his readers into the mind of a young father whose son, Felipe, is born with Down syndrome. From the initial shock of diagnosis, and through his growing understanding of the world of hospitals and therapies, Tezza threads the story of his son's life with his own. Felipe, who lives in an eternal present, becomes a remarkable young man; for Tezza, however, the story is a settling of accounts with himself and his own limitations and, ultimately, a coming to terms with the sublime ironies and arbitrariness of life. He struggles with the phantom of shame, as if his son's condition was an indication of his own worth, and yearns for a 'normal' world that is always out of reach. This compelling book is like stumbling through a trapdoor into the writer's mind, where nothing is censored, and everything is constantly examined and reinterpreted. What emerges is a hard-won philosophy of everyday life. Due Mar



#### Mornings in Jenin Susan ABULHAWA

352pp Tp \$32.99

Palestine, 1941. In the small village of Ein Hod, a father leads a procession of his family and workers through the olive groves. As they move through the trees, the green fruits drop onto the orchard floor; the ancient cycle of the seasons providing another bountiful harvest. 1948. The Abulheja family are forcibly removed from their ancestral home in Ein Hod and sent to live in a refugee camp in Jenin. Through Amal, the bright granddaughter

of the patriarch, we witness the stories of her brothers: one, a stolen boy who becomes an Israeli soldier; the other, who in sacrificing everything for the Palestinian cause, becomes his enemy. Amal's own dramatic story threads its way through six decades of Palestinian-Israeli tension, eventually taking her into exile in Pensylvania in America. The first commercial literary work to emerge from inside Palestine, this is an astonishing and important novel that forces us to re-think our understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Due Mar



#### The Man Who Disappeared

Clare MORRALL 384pp Tp \$32.99 What would you do if, out of the blue, your reliable husband disappears? Then you are told he has been involved in money-laundering. Surely the man you know intimately couldn't be a criminal...could he? When Felix Kendall vanishes, his wife Kate is left in turmoil. As she and their children adjust to a hand-to-mouth existence, she looks back on her marriage and Felix's orphaned

upbringing in search of clues, confronting the possibility that she has badly misread him. And as she gradually discovers strengths she never knew she had, many miles away Felix is coming to terms with just what he has done and lost. This compelling story of deception and self-deception, compromise and second chances, questions how far we can know even those closest to us as it probes beneath society's veneer. Due Mar



#### Below the Styx

Michael MEEHAN 344pp Tp \$29.99 How on earth does Marcus Clarke, a brilliant young Englishman - author of For the Term of His Natural Life - stranded on the far side of the world and dead for more than a century, get himself mixed up in a murder in exclusive, modern day Toorak? A challenging, amusing and intriguing novel about reading, writing and thinking and many other things besides. Due Mar



Point Omega

Don DELILLO 120pp Tp \$29.99 Richard Elster was a scholar - an outsider - when he was called to a meeting with government war planners, asked to apply "ideas and principles to such matters as troop deployment and counterinsurgency." We see Elster at the end of his service. He has retreated to the desert, "somewhere south of nowhere" in search of space and geologic time. There he is joined by a filmmaker, Jim Finley, intent on documenting his experience. Finley wants to

persuade Elster to make a one-take film, Elster its single character - "Just a man and a wall." Weeks later, Elster's daughter Jessica visits - an 'otherworldly' woman from New York, who dramatically alters the dynamic of the story. The three of them talk, train their binoculars on the landscape and build an odd, tender intimacy, something like a family. Then a devastating event throws everything into question. In this compact and powerful novel, it is finally a lingering human mystery that haunts the landscape of desert and mind. Due Mar

#### CHILDREN'S REVIEWED BY LINDY JONES

## When You Reach Me



232pp Pb \$16.95

Rebecca STEAD Winner of this year's prestigious Newbery Award, this intricately layered novel is the sort a reader finishes, and re-reads to put all the pieces back together. Miranda is at a stage of life where things are changing. Her best friend doesn't want to spend time with her and she doesn't know what she's done to upset him. A crazy man lurks around the corner of her New York apartment block. A new boy arrives and creates trouble, but in an

experimental sense. She takes a lunchtime job and makes new friends. And someone is leaving her mysterious letters, referring to things that haven't yet happened, but do. A very enjoyable read, mixing time and friendship together. Ages 10-14



#### And Picasso Painted Guernica

52pp Hb \$35.00

Alain SERRES This is the story of Picasso's masterpiece, simply but powerfully conveyed. Beginning with a brief biography, it then sketches the background to the mural - the horror of the first air attack concentrated on peaceful civilians. With excellent reproductions of various details and stages of the painting (as well as many examples of Picasso's works before and after), this beautifully

produced book will introduce children of all ages to one of the 20th century's most influential artists. Highly recommended!

#### Finding Freia Lockhart Aimee SAID

291pp Pb \$16.95 Freia is a quiet sort of girl, whose best friend Kate starts hanging around the popular girls at school. If she wants to keep Kate's friendship, Freia feels she also has to hang around the Bs as well - a difficult thing to do when she is not interested in fashion, boys, lip gloss or parties, and when her mucholder parents are exceedingly strict, and expect her to excel academically. A nicely written tale of a young girl finding her place, her true friends and her self. Ages 12+



DOG



Daniel PENNAC 198pp Pb \$14.95 Dog (who has no other name) is not a pretty little puppy and is left to drown by callous owners who think him too ugly to sell. Rescued and nurtured by Black Nose, he is taught how to survive until an accident in the rubbish tip they live in leaves him looking for a new home. Off to the city he goes, and eventually after a number of mistakes he finds the girl who will be his perfect mistress - if only

he can train her properly. A delightful, but sometimes unvarnished, story of responsibility and dog ownership. Ages 8-11

#### Tales of Death and Dementia Edgar Allan POE

136pp Hb \$35.00 Retold and illustrated by Gris Grimly, this colourful volume introduces young readers to four of Poe's dark tales: The Tell-Tale Heart, The System of Dr Tarr and Professor Fether, The Oblong Box and The Facts of the Case. True to the intention of the originals, these retellings are enlivened by graphic illustrations which will appeal to boys in particular.

## Abbey's Bookshop

# BIOGRAPHY



#### The Life of Akmal

Akmal SALEH Tp \$34.95 At the age of 11, Akmal's parents gathered up their children and left Egypt, headed for Australian shores. Growing up in a typical Sydney suburb, he began to recognise the differences between his Arab heritage and the Australian way of life, which would later shape him as a comedian. Akmal began his comedy career going by the name Peter so he could get booked in RSL clubs. Before long he could walk

on stage and instantly have the audience eating out of his hand. After only a few years, he became one of the most sought-after acts, touring with international comedians such as Steven Wright and Ben Elton. This book charts his early life in Egypt with his eccentric family to his first gigs at bikie conventions (coming on stage before the strippers), his marriage, and his ever-increasing success on stage and TV. Due Mar



Malcolm Fraser **The Political Memoirs** 

Malcolm FRASER & Margaret SIMONS 656pp Hb \$59.99 Malcolm Fraser is one of the least known, most

interesting and possibly most misunderstood of Australia's Prime Ministers. At the age of 79, he explains himself and his record in government for the first time, speaking from his experience to the present and the future. Written in collaboration with journalist Margaret

Simons, this is the story of a shy boy who was raised to be seen and not heard, yet grew to become one of the most persistent, insistent and controversial political voices of our times. From the Vietnam War to the Dismissal and his years as Prime Minister, through to his many disputes with the Howard Government, Fraser emerges as an enduring liberal, constantly reinterpreting core values to meet the needs of changing times. Due Mar



#### Trouble Evolution of a Radical, Selected Writings 1970-2010

Kate JENNINGS 320pp Tp \$32.95 In 1970, Kate Jennings, 21, stunned a Sydney anti-war rally into silence with a pull-no-punches speech calling for women's empowerment. Brave, impassioned and funny, it set the tone for an unconventional life. A few years later she was on her way to New York, where she would make her name as a writer, fall in love and, as a

Wall Street speechwriter, enjoy ringside seats at some of the strangest events of our times. This is a collection of her best short work from the last four decades. She describes America with the keen eye of an outsider and looks back at Australia with an expatriate's frankness. From the protest movements of the 1970s, via Wall Street's heyday and dramatic collapse, to the historic election of Barack Obama, she captures the shifts - seismic and subtle, personal and political - that brought us to where we are now. Due Mar



#### Lives Like Loaded Guns **Emily Dickinson and Her Family's Feuds**

Lyndall GORDON 512pp Tp \$35.00 In her lifetime, only 10 of Emily Dickinson's poems were published, yet her death revealed 1,800 poems, many of them in hand-sewn booklets, secreted in a locked chest. She is now regarded as one of the greatest poets of all time, but she has come down to us as a woman disappointed in love, an odd and pathetic woman who shut herself away. Gordon sees

instead her volcanic character - "a soul at White Heat" - a mystic and lover whose family harboured a hothouse drama of sex, scandal and devastating betrayal. Dickinson was a woman beyond her time who found love, spiritual quickening and immortality all on her own terms. Due Mar



#### I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced

192pp Tp \$29.95 Nujood ALI & Delphine MINOUI "I'm a simple village girl whose family had to move to the capital, and I have always obeyed the orders of the men in my family. Since forever, I have learned to say yes to everything. Today, I have decided to say no." Nujood's childhood came to an abrupt end when her father arranged for her to be married to a man three times her age. With harrowing directness, she tells of abuse at her husband's hands, beginning with the very first night of her married life, and ending the day she slipped away during an errand.

Instead of going to the market to buy bread, she took a taxi to the court building. That was the beginning of her odyssey. With the help of a female lawyer, Chadha Nasser, NGO's and the local press, Nujood finally obtained her freedom, an extraordinary achievement in Yemen, where there is a conspiracy of silence about the fact that almost half the girls are married under the legal age. Since her victory, she has given other young girls the courage to stand up to their society's customs. Due Mar

#### The Boy in the Moon Ian BROWN

304pp Pb \$29.95

Walker Brown was born with a genetic mutation so rare that doctors call it an Orphan Syndrome: perhaps 300 people around the world also live with it. Walker turns 12 in 2008, but he weighs only 24 kilos, is still in nappies, cannot speak and needs to wear special cuffs on his arms so he doesn't continually hit himself. "Sometimes watching him," his father writes, "is like looking at the man in the moon - but you know there is actually no man there. But if Walker is so insubstantial, why does he feel so important? What is he trying to show me? All I really want to know is what goes on inside his off-shaped head," he writes, "but every time I ask, he somehow persuades me to look into my own." Due Mar



## Catherine's Gift

John LITTLE 288pp Pb \$24.99 Dr Catherine Hamlin has been described as a living saint and one of our greatest Australians. Since 1959 she has lived and worked in Ethiopia, helping the victims of fistulas devastating injuries caused by obstructed labour in childbirth, which condemn women to a lifetime of incapacity and degradation. The surgery she pioneered has helped tens of thousands of sufferers return to normal life after being shunned by their families and communities. The hospitals she has set up in her adopted country now act as

teaching centres for obstetricians and surgeons from many developing nations. This book takes us inside her extraordinary world, following the fate of some of the women who have travelled to Hamlin's hospitals in the hope of a cure for their fistula injuries. It shows us the day-to-day experiences of her incredible staff, and the tireless work of Hamlin herself. Due Mar

#### Invisible

Hugues DE MONTALEMBERT

144pp Pb \$24.99 "You live in a city like New York. You read the papers. You look at the television. But you never think it will happen to you. It happened to me one evening." One summer night in 1978, Hugues returned home to his New York City apartment to find two men robbing him. In a violent struggle, one of the assailants threw paint thinner in his face. Within a few hours, he was completely blind. Eloquent and provocative, this book moves beyond the horrific events of that night to what happened to Hugues after he lost his sight: his rehabilitation, his solo travels around the world and the remarkable way he learned to 'see' without the use of his eyes. Without a trace of self-pity, he describes his transition from an up-andcoming painter to a blind man who had to learn to walk with a cane. His status changed in the eyes of other people as their reactions ranged from avoidance to making him their confidant. He travelled to faraway places and learned to trust strangers, finding himself at home in any situation. Due Mar



#### Whip Smart Meilssa FEBOS

Tp \$34.99

This is the story of how Febos, a heroin-addicted college junior with perfect grades, chose to become a professional dominatrix at a top-tier 'dungeon' in Manhattan. What began as an exhilarating anthropological experiment became a life-changing personal journey. After her drug addiction hit its nadir, her sessions at The Dungeon of Mistress X progressed from sensual to corporal to those in which she physically submitted to her clients. In sobriety she was

forced to confront her very real obsessions with power and desire. As a result, she freed herself from her obsessions with secrecy, lies and double lives, and learned how to have a truly open mind and a bigger heart. While the story involves many sensational situations and details, the emotional experience is one that most people will relate to. It does not romanticise, sensationalise or typify the sex-worker experience or the addict experience, nor does it shy away from the intellectual and psychological questions that such experiences inspire. Due Mar

# **HISTORY**



The War That Killed Achilles The True Story of The Iliad

Caroline ALEXANDER 304pp Hb \$49.99 The Iliad is still the greatest poem about war that our culture has ever produced. For a hundred

generations, poets and thinkers in the West have pored over, retold and argued about the events described in this martial epic, even when direct knowledge of it was lost. Various empires have admired it as a book that in telling the story of the

siege of Troy also extols the warrior ethic, and teaches the young how to die well. Yet the figure at the heart of the epic, the consummate warrior, Achilles, is a brooding, controversial hero. He is a fierce critic of those who have started this war and allowed it to drag on, consuming soldiers and civilians alike. The Iliad portrays war as a catastrophe that destroys cities, orphans children and wrecks whole societies. Alexander's extraordinary book is not about any of the traditional concerns that have occupied classicists for centuries. It is simpler and more radical than that. In her words, "This book is about what The Iliad is about; this book is about what the The Iliad says of war." Due Mar



Travelling Heroes Greeks and their Myths in the Epic Age of Homer

Robin LANE FOX 514pp Tp \$26.95 This remarkable and original book proposes a new way of thinking about the Greeks and their myths in the age of the great Homeric hymns. It combines a lifetime's familiarity with Greek literature and history with the latest archaeological discoveries and the author's own journeys to the main sites in the story to describe how particular Greeks of the eighth

century BC travelled east and west around the Mediterranean, and how their extraordinary journeys shaped their ideas of their gods and heroes. It gathers together stories and echoes from many different ancient cultures, not just the Greek - Assyria, Egypt, the Phoenician traders - and ranges from Mesopotamia to the Rio Tinto at Huelva in modern Portugal. Due Mar



#### The Ides

Caesar's Murder and the War for Rome Stephen DANDO-COLLINS 288pp Hb \$39.95 The assassination of Julius Caesar is one of the most notorious murders in history. 2,000 years after it occurred, many compelling questions remain. Was Brutus the hero and Caesar the villain? Did Caesar bring death on himself by planning to make himself king of Rome? Was Mark Antony aware of the plot? Who wrote Antony's script after Caesar's death? Using historical evidence to sort out these and other

puzzling issues, Dando-Collins recaptures the drama of Caesar's demise and the chaotic aftermath as the vicious struggle for power between Antony and Octavian unfolded. For the first time, he shows how the religious festivals and customs of the day impacted on the way the assassination plot unfolded. He shows, too, how the murder was almost avoided at the last moment. Due Mar



#### AD 410 The Year That Shook Rome

Sam MOORHEAD & David STUTTARD

176pp Pb \$24.95 The Goths' sack of Rome in AD 410 shook the Roman world to its core. This gripping book uncovers the key factors that contributed to Alaric the Goth's capture of Rome: mass migrations, military incompetence, civil war, court intrigue, economic decline and religious bigotry. It also explains the collapse of the Western

Roman Empire, including the loss of Britain, around AD 410. Telling a truly compelling story of a defining moment in history, it is packed with dramatic characters and events. Bold personalities are brought to life, drawn from sources newly translated for this book by master storytellers thoroughly familiar with their subject. Although many have asked why Rome fell, few have told the tale of how it fell. The dramatic story is richly illustrated throughout with images of evocative sites and iconic objects, many drawn from the vast collections of the British Museum. Due Mar



#### The History of the Medieval World From the Conversion of Constantine to the First Crusade

Susan Wise BAUER 746pp Hb \$52.95 From the schism between Rome and Constantinople to the rise of the T'ang Dynasty, from the birth of Muhammad to the crowning of Charlemagne, this erudite book tells the fascinating, often violent, story of kings, generals and the peoples they ruled. In her earlier work, The History of the Ancient World (Hb

\$39.95), Bauer wrote of the rise of kingship based on might. But in the years between the 4th and the 12th centuries, rulers had to find new justification for their power and they turned to divine truth or grace to justify political and military action. Right thus replaces might as the engine of empire. Not just Christianity and Islam, but the religions of the Persians and the Germans, and even Buddhism, are pressed into the service of the state. This phenomenon - stretching from the Americas all the way to Japan - changes religion, but it also changes the state. Due Mar



## Knight

The Medieval Warrior's Unofficial Manual Michael PRESTWICH

208pp Hb \$35.00 It is the year 1415, the epic battle of Agincourt has just been fought, and never has it been a more glorious time to be a knight. But as any warrior will tell you, the path to chivalry is not an easy ride. This entertaining manual follows the highly successful Legionary: The Roman Soldier's Unofficial Manual by Philip Matyszak (Hb \$39.95) and tells you all you need to know about the

ups and downs of knightly life in the Middle Ages, from how to look your best on the battlefield to the going rates for ransoming a duke, as well as the best places to go on crusade and how to deal with the amorous attentions of courtly ladies. Due Mar



#### Renaissance Florence on Five Florins a Day Charles FITZROY

144pp Hb \$35.00

This fascinating and fact-packed guide provides all the practical advice you need for a journey back to the golden age of one of Europe's great cultural cities. Take in the sights and sounds, marvel at Brunelleschi's sublime cathedral dome, wonder at the sculptures and paintings that have made this the art capital of its day, and lose yourself in the thrilling (and often riotous) local

feasts and festivals. This witty book will appeal to travellers, museum-goers or anyone who wonders what it was like to visit this model of Renaissance culture. Due Mar



#### Splendour and Squalor The Disgrace and Disintigration of Three Aristocratic Dynasties Marcus SCRIVEN

448pp Hb \$55.00

From stunning stately homes to the prisons of wartime Britain; from the House of Lords to Edwardian asylums; from the Ritz and the Dorchester to East End pubs, Scriven tells the stories of three of Britain's most illustrious aristocratic dynasties and of the black sheep who brought them down. They kept monkeys in West

End hotels and rent boys in Deauville and Kensington. They spiced up life in pre-war Britain by patronising illegal gaming clubs and staging elaborate five-in-a-bed sex in stately homes. They used firearms with convincing disregard for their own and others' safety and drove their Rolls Royces and Bentleys with apparent suicidal intent. They acquired yachts and helicopters as they shipped the family silver to California and disposed of Old Masters at auction. They married frequently and unsatisfactorily, humiliating their wives and always withholding from them dynastic secrets of schizophrenia and insanity. Lacking the energy and appetite to do so, they rarely developed their talents. Carpeting their lives with deceit, they sought consolation in ferocious expenditure and narcotic, alcohol-fuelled blow-outs. They ignored the advice of sane relations, shrugged off trustees and experimented with burglary, shoplifting, vagrancy and fraud. Their primary accomplishment was to drag down their families with them. They were the black sheep of aristocracy and this is their story! Due Mar



## **HISTORY**

#### Nothing But the Truth Selected Dispatches

Anna Politkovskava

Anna POLITKOVSKAYA 480pp Tp \$34.95 Until her murder in October 2006, the author wrote for the Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta. She won international fame for her reporting on the Chechen wars and, more generally, on Russian state corruption. This is a collection of her best writing, published between 1999 and 2006, presenting a solid overview of her highly

professional reportage, standing as a tribute to her matter-of-fact personal courage in face of the dangers and the threats she received in the course of her work. Due Mar



#### **Operation Mincemeat** The True Spy Story That Changed the Course of World War II Ben MACINTYRE

320pp Tp \$32.99 Operation Mincemeat was the most successful wartime deception ever attempted, and certainly the strangest. It hoodwinked the Nazi espionage chiefs, sent German troops hurtling in the wrong direction, and saved thousands of lives by

deploying a secret agent who was different, in one crucial respect, from any spy before or since: he was dead. His mission: to convince the Germans that instead of attacking Sicily, the Allies planned to invade Greece. The brainchild of an eccentric RAF officer and a brilliant Jewish barrister, this great hoax involved an extraordinary cast of characters including a famous forensic pathologist, a goldprospector, an inventor, a beautiful secret service secretary, a submarine captain, three novelists, a transvestite English spymaster, an irascible admiral who loved fly-fishing and a dead Welsh tramp. Using fraud, imagination and seduction, Churchill's team of spies spun a web of deceit so elaborate and so convincing that they began to believe it themselves. The deception started in a windowless basement beneath Whitehall. It travelled from London to Scotland to Spain to Germany. And it ended up on Hitler's desk. Due Mar



#### THE PACIFIC The Pacific Hell was an Ocean Away

Hugh AMBROSE 512pp Tp \$34.95 Between America's retreat from China in late November 1941 and the moment General MacArthur's airplane touched down on the Japanese mainland in August 1945, five men connected by happenstance fought the key battles of the war against Japan. Ambrose

focuses on the real-life stories of these men, who put their lives on the line for their country. This is published to coincide with the new miniseries The Pacific on Channel 7 in April, produced by Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and Gary Goetzman. Due Mar

## AUSTRALIAN HISTORY



#### The River

Chris HAMMER 288pp Tp \$34.99 Australia's major river system, the Murray Darling, is collapsing. Parts of it are dying; parts of it are already dead. Some places near the shores of South Australia's lower lakes, where the Murray has stopped flowing, may never recover. Australia's most significant river no

longer reaches the sea. Ecosystems are dying, farmers are going to the wall and towns are emptying. This was the Murray Darling that journalist Chris Hammer found in the summer of 2009 as he drove along the river. He tells the story of the things he saw and the people he met: of farmers practical yet delusional, of towns so friendly yet hidebound. He also tells stories of the environment and sees firsthand the effects of climate change, drought and mismanagement on the land. What is the future of settlement west of the Great Dividing Range? Can the once mighty Murray Darling river system continue to support the agricultural industries and towns of the hinterland, or will Australians increasingly be forced to retreat to desalination-dependent coastal cities? Due Mar



#### Quarterly Essay #37 What's Right?

The Future of Conservatism in Australia Waleed ALY

132pp Pb \$19.95 What did George W Bush and John Howard do to conservatism? In their wake, the conservative parties in the US and Australia seem to have lost their way and they no longer have a vision of the future. How did the Right in Australia end up in this place? How might it renew itself? The author begins by unravelling the

terms Right and Left, arguing that they have become meaningless. He discusses how Howard-style conservatism was all too ready to dictate social values, even to the point of prescribing who or what is Australian. He argues that the political issues of the day, such as climate change and the financial crisis, mean a reactionary brand of politics is unlikely to work because public opinion is swiftly leaving it behind. Due Mar



#### Beneath Hill 60

Tp \$34.95

Will DAVIES We all remember images from WWI of massive artillery barrages and soldiers crossing shattered landscapes towards certain slaughter. Beneath these killing fields of the Western Front, another war was taking place, a deadly game 30 metres down, played between thousands of troops. These were not infantrymen, but miners. Their mutual goal was to tunnel beneath 'no man's land' and under the opposing lines and destroy the enemy from below. Over 4,585 Australian miners

took part in this secret subterranean war, fighting under stress and conditions that terrified even the most hardened infantrymen on the surface. The 1st Australian Tunneling Division was responsible for the mines set under Hill 60, a high point that dominated that part of the killing fields of Belgium. They were led by Captain Oliver Woodward, who had started his mining career in Charters Towers, Queensland, and later went on to head BHP in Australia. His bravery and that of his men in guarding those underground mines and their subsequent massive explosions broke the gridlocked trench warfare that had continued for three years. Through exhaustive research, Davies has uncovered many firsthand accounts of life for the tunnellers and soldiers at the front. Due Mar

## TASMANIA'S CONVICTS HOW FELONS BUILT A FREE SOCIETY

#### Tasmania's Convicts How Felons Built a Free Society Alison ALEXANDER

324pp Hb \$45.00



To the convicts arriving in Van Diemen's Land, it must have felt as though they had been sent to the very ends of the earth. Alexander tells the history of the men and women transported to what became one of Britain's most notorious convict colonies. Following the lives of dozens of convicts and their families, she uncovers stories of success, failure and everything in between. While some suffered harsh conditions, most served their

time and were freed, becoming peaceful citizens. Yet over the decades, a terrible stigma became associated with the convicts and they and the whole colony went to extraordinary lengths to hide it. The majority of Tasmanians today have convict ancestry, whether they know it or not. While the public stigma of its convict past has given way to a contemporary fascination with colonial history, Alexander debates whether the convict past lingers deep in the psyche of white Tasmania. Due Mar



HMAS Sydney (II) M McCARTHY (Editor) 128pp Pb \$25.00 In March 2008 the Australian light cruiser HMAS Sydney (II) and its adversary, the disguised German raider HSK Kormoran, were found. A commission of Inquiry sat for a total of 36 days and a detailed three-volume (over 1,000 page) report was produced in July 2009. In the interim, the Sea Power Centre-

Australia produced an account of each ship and of the battle in which HMAS Sydney was lost. In this concise work, the Western Australian Museum, which has been closely involved with the hunt for the two wrecks since 1976, draws together salient elements of these works and presents them together with its own analysis of how the controversies spread, why the search took so long, and how the wrecks would be best managed in the future. Due Mar

Palm Island



Through a Long Lens 256pp Pb \$34.95 Joanne WATSON In November 2004, Mulrunji Doomadgee's tragic death triggered civil unrest within the Indigenous community of Palm Island. This led to the first prosecution of a Queensland police officer in relation to a death in custody. Despite prolonged media attention, much of it negative and full of stereotypes, few

Australians know the turbulent history of 'Australia's Alcatraz', a political prison set up to exile Queensland's 'troublesome blacks'. Watson gives the first substantial history of the island from pre contact to the present, set against a

backgdrop of some of the most explosive episodes in Queensland history. Due Mar

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# SCIENCE



**IMMORTAL** 

LIFE OF

## How the Ice Age Gave Birth to the First Modern Humans

**Brian FAGAN** 320pp Hb \$49.95 The name Cro-Magnon inspires images of a snowbound world, mammoth hunting and eerily alluring cave paintings. Who were these ancient people? In a word, they were us - the first anatomically modern humans.

Fagan brings these early humans out of the deep freeze with his trademark mix of erudition, cutting-edge science and vivid storytelling. He reveals human society in its infancy, facing enormous environmental challenges - including a rival species of humans, the Neanderthals. For 10 millennia, Cro-Magnons lived side by side with Neanderthals, an encounter that Fagan fills with drama. Using their superior intellect and tools these ingenious problem-solvers survived harsh conditions that eventually extinguished their Neanderthal cousins. This book captures the indomitable adaptability that has made Homo sapiens an unmatched success as a species. Living on a frozen continent with only the most basic tools, Ice Age humans survived and thrived. Due Mar



Rebecca SKLOOT 368pp Tp \$34.99 Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her simply as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells - taken without her knowledge - become one of the most important tools in modern medicine. Taken in 1951, these cells became

the first immortal human cell line ever grown in culture. They were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered the secrets of cancer, viruses and the effects of the atom bomb; helped lead to important advances like IVF, cloning and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Skloot takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the 'coloured' wards of Johns Hopkins in the 1950s to poverty stricken tenements of East Baltimore today, where Henrietta's children are unable to afford health insurance and struggle with feelings of pride, fear and betrayal. Their story is inextricably linked to the birth of bioethics, the rise of the multi-billion dollar biotech industry, and the legal battles that determine if we own our bodies. Due Mar



## Is God a Mathematician?

Mario LIVIO 320pp Tp \$26.99 From ancient times to the present, scientists and philosophers have marvelled at how such a seemingly abstract discipline as mathematics could so perfectly explain the natural world. More than that - mathematics has often made predictions, for example, about subatomic particles or cosmic phenomena that were unknown at the time,

but later were proven to be true. Is mathematics ultimately invented or discovered? If, as Einstein insisted, mathematics is "a product of human thought that is independent of experience," how can it so accurately describe and even predict the world around us? Mathematicians themselves often insist that their work has no practical effect. The British mathematician G H Hardy went so far as to describe his own work this way: "No discovery of mine has made, or is likely to make, directly or indirectly, for good or ill, the least difference to the amenity of the world." He was wrong. The Hardy-Weinberg law allows population geneticists to predict how genes are transmitted from one generation to the next, and his work on the theory of numbers found unexpected implications in the development of codes. Livio brilliantly explores mathematical ideas from Pythagoras to the present day as he shows us how intriguing questions and ingenious answers have led to ever deeper insights into our world. Due Mar



#### Requiem for a Species Why We Resist the Truth About Climate Change

**Clive HAMILTON** 288pp Pb \$24.99 In this logically argued book, Hamilton explores why, in the face of mounting evidence that climate change is unpreventable and hurtling towards us, the human race has ignored the warnings and continued on a self-destructive path. He starts with setting out the facts in a faithful rendering of climate science, follows with chapters analysing the human failure to respond to the unpleasant and unpalatable, our preoccupation with economic growth at the expense of the

natural world, and our penchant for denial and dissociation, and concludes with a call to arms - that we must accept the new situation and respond positively. It is a bleak book, but it is not hopeless; and while some may think he is doom-mongering, others will find his argument to act, and act ethically, persuasive. Due Mar Lindy



#### Out of the Scientist's Garden A Story of Water and Food

Richard STIRZAKER 208pp Pb \$29.95 Although a practicing scientist in the field of water and agriculture, Stirzaker has written about the drama of how the world feeds itself in story form, accessible to a wide audience. He starts in his own fruit and vegetable garden, exploring the 'how and why' questions about the way things grow, before moving on to stories about soil, rivers, aquifers and irrigation. He closes with a brief history of agriculture, how the world feeds itself today and how to

think through some of the big conundrums of modern food production. Due Mar



The Strangest Man The Hidden Life of Paul Dirac, Quantum Genius Graham FARMELO 560pp Pb \$27.99

Paul Dirac was one of the leading pioneers of the greatest revolution in 20th-century science: quantum mechanics. The youngest theoretician ever to win the Nobel Prize for Physics, he was also pathologically reticent, strangely literal-minded and legendarily unable to communicate or empathise. One of the most fascinating and acclaimed science biographies of recent times. Due Mar



#### How Four Voyagers to Australasia Won the Battle for Evolution and Changed the World

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Kissing

Make

You Live

Longer?

**BODY AND BEHAVIO** 

**MYSTERIES EXPLAINED** 

Stephen Juan

DARWIN'S

lain McCALMAN 432pp Pb \$26.95 This is both a gripping adventure story and a brilliantly enlightening work of history, for the first time portraying the Darwinian revolution as a collective enterprise forged in Australasia. Four remarkable men - Charles Darwin, Joseph Hooker, Thomas Huxley and Alfred Wallace - did what one alone could not. They combed the world for evidence of evolution by natural selection, then fought tirelessly in the

social and intellectual battle that followed its famous publication 150 years ago. Together they changed the world. Due Mar

#### Can Kissing Make You Live Longer? Body and Behaviour Mysteries Explained 320pp Tp \$27.99

Dr Stephen JUAN

Can kissing make you live longer, even help prevent a food allergy? Does reading about yawning make you yawn? Can picking your nose kill you? Will garlic breath make you sexy? And why do men and women doodle differently? From thunder headaches and burping corpses to 'confessing Sams' and 'secret keepers', Dr Juan's explanations will fascinate and entertain. Due Mar

#### The Hidden Brain



#### How Our Unconscious Minds Elect Presidents, Control Markets, Wage Wars, and Save Our Lives

Shankar VEDANTAM 288pp Tp \$35.00 What if it is simply unconscious biases - in the way of memory, emotion and attention - that produce most misunderstandings and conflicts between people, groups and even nations? How can you tell if it isn't just your brain running on auto-pilot that makes your moral decisions for you, instead of the logical thinking you have nurtured and developed? Reminiscent of Malcolm Gladwell's Blink (Pb \$24.95), this takes a look at how

we actually think, both consciously and unconsciously. Due Mar

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## **RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY**



Sticks and Stones The Philosophy of Insults

304pp Pb \$35.00

Jerome NEU "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." This schoolyard rhyme projects an invulnerability to verbal insults that sounds good but rings false. For most of us, feeling insulted is a distressing - and distressingly common - experience. Neu probes the nature, purpose and effects of insults, exploring how

and why they humiliate, embarrass, infuriate and wound us so deeply. What kind of injury is an insult? Is it determined by the insulter or the insulted? What does it reveal about the character of both parties, as well as the character of society and its conventions? What role does insult play in social and legal life? When is telling the truth an insult? Neu draws upon a wealth of examples and anecdotes, as well as a range of views - from Aristotle and Oliver Wendell Holmes to Oscar Wilde, John Wayne and Katherine Hepburn - to provide surprising answers to these questions. He shows that what we find insulting can reveal much about our ideas of character, honour, gender, the nature of speech acts and social and legal conventions. He considers how insults, both intentional and unintentional, make themselves felt - in play, Freudian slips, insult humour, rituals, blasphemy, libel, slander and hate speech. And he investigates the insult's extraordinary power, why it can so quickly destabilise our sense of self and threaten our moral identity, the very centre of our self-respect and self-esteem. Due Mar



#### How Philosophy Can Save Your Life **10 Ideas That Matter Most**

Marietta McCARTY 352pp Pb \$19.95 Discover how great philosophers can help you live a more purposeful and peaceful life. This inspiring new book from the author of Little Big Minds (Pb \$24.95) reveals how the heartbeats of philosophy - clear thinking, quiet reflection and good conversation - are essential ingredients in a well-

lived life. Full of great discussion ideas and activities you can do with a group, this book is framed around 10 big ideas - themes that, according to McCarty, are necessary to grasp if we want to live a truly fulfilling life. Due Mar



#### The Defence of the Enlightenment

Tzvetan TODOROV 160pp Hb \$35.00 Todorov establishes the Enlightenment as the philosophical cornerstone of the modern world and argues that the wisdom of those times is just as relevant today. Although our liberal democracies are the offspring of the Enlightenment, they also illustrate the ways in which its ideas can be distorted and perverted. People living in these democracies

today are often baffled by a host of phenomena which they don't know how to judge: globalisation and media omnipotence, state-sponsored torture and lies, moralism and the right of intervention, the domination of economics and the triumph of technology. Is it possible to distinguish between the Enlightenment's legitimate and illegitimate heirs? We cannot learn lessons from the past unless we know how to relate them to the present. Due Mar

#### Reason, Faith, and Revolution **Reflections on the God Debate**

#### Terry EAGLETON

192pp Pb \$26.95 This witty and polemical work is bound to cause a stir among scientists, theologians, people of faith and people of no faith, as well as general readers eager to understand the God Debate. On the one hand, Eagleton demolishes what he calls the 'superstitious' view of God held by most atheists and agnostics, and offers in its place a revolutionary account of the Christian Gospel. On the other hand, he launches a stinging assault on the betrayal of this revolution by institutional Christianity. So there is little joy here, for either the anti-God brigade -Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens in particular - or for many conventional believers. Instead, Eagleton offers his own vibrant account of religion and politics in a book that ranges from the Holy Spirit to the recent history of the Middle East, from Thomas Aguinas to the Twin Towers. Due Mar

#### Alice in Wonderland and Philosophy **Curiouser and Curiouser** William IRWIN & Richard Brian DAVIS (Editors)



240pp Pb \$27.95 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (Pb \$9.95) has fascinated children and adults alike for generations. Why does Lewis Carroll introduce us to such oddities as blue caterpillars who smoke hookahs, cats whose grins

remain after their heads have faded away and a White Queen who lives backwards and remembers forwards?

Is it all just nonsense? Was Carroll under the influence? This book probes the deeper underlying meaning in the Alice books and reveals a world rich with philosophical life lessons. Tapping into some of the greatest philosophical minds that ever lived - Aristotle, Hume, Hobbes and Nietzsche - this book explores life's ultimate questions through the eyes of perhaps the most endearing heroine in all of literature. Due Mar



#### Stranger from Abroad Hannah Arendt, Martin Heidegger, Friendship and Forgiveness

Daniel MAIER-KATKIN 304pp Hb \$42.95 Shaking up the content and method of studying Western philosophy, Heidegger sought to ennoble Man's existence in relation to death. Yet in a time of crisis, he chose to become the most prominent German intellectual to join the Nazis. Hannah Arendt, his brilliant student and lover, sought to enable a decent society of human beings in

relation to one another. She was courageous in the time of crisis. Years later, she forgave Heidegger and found in his behaviour an insight into Nazism that would influence her reflections on 'the banality of evil' - to this day still a controversial and yet influential concept. A portrait of two titans of 20th century thought, this book dramatises some of the greatest questions of our times revealing the bonds connecting the personal, philosophical and political and highlighting the responsibility of intellectuals in dark times. Due Mar



#### Enlightened Eccentrics Philosophers in the Age of Reason

200pp Pb \$24.99

Robert SPILLANE This book is a declaration of respect and admiration for the philosophers who had the courage to publicly use their reason in the service of truth. Threatened and attacked in their time, they are today ignored or ridiculed by those who fear or wish to suppress the truths of human existence. The challenge today is to find eccentrics enlightened enough to argue that the age which venerated reason and science as humankind's highest faculty must not be lost to us. Due Mar



#### Conceiving God The Cognitive Origin and Evolution of Religion David LEWIS-WILLIAMS 320pp Hb \$49.95

At once polemical, insightful and thought-provoking, this is essential reading for all those interested in the origins of religious thought, and the respective roles of science and religion in contemporary society. Building on the insights and discoveries of his two earlier books, The Mind in the Cave and Inside the Neolithic Mind (both Pb \$45.00), cognitive archaeologist Lewis-Williams explores how

science developed within the cocoon of religion and then shows how the natural functioning of the human brain creates experiences that can lead to belief in the supernatural realm. Due Mar

# **E**CONOMICS & **B**USINESS



**Corporate Punishment** Smashing the Management Clichés for Leaders in a New World

James ADONIS 224pp Tp \$29.95 Think there's no I in team? There is. Believe that together everyone achieves more? They don't. Asked to give it 110 per cent? You can't. Think employees are your greatest asset? They ain't. Got an open-door policy? For goodness sake,

shut it! Whether you're a perpetrator or a casualty of cringe-worthy corporate clichés (or both), this book challenges the way you think about the world of business and the mind-numbing management mottos that have underpinned it for decades. Adonis smashes to pieces some of the most deeply entrenched business philosophies, offering in their place a progressive new thought process that's light on rhetoric and boring theory, but heavy on practicality and imagination. This book is the breath of fresh air every modern business needs and a long overdue break from the hot air that most are forced to endure.

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Lords of Finance 1929, the Great Depression, and the Bankers Who Broke the World Liaguat AHAMED

576pp Pb \$29.95

This has happened before. The current financial crisis has only one parallel: the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and subsequent Great Depression of the 1930s, which crippled the future of FINANCE an entire generation and set the stage for the horrors of WWII. Yet the economic meltdown could have been avoided, had it not been for the decisions taken by a small number of central

bankers. In this book, we meet these men, the four bankers who truly broke the world: the enigmatic Norman Montagu of the Bank of England, Benjamin Strong of the NY Federal Reserve, the arrogant yet brilliant Hjalmar Schacht of the Reichsbank and the xenophobic Emile Moreau of the Banque de France. Their names were lost to history, their lives and actions forgotten, until now. Ahamed tells their story in vivid and gripping detail, in a timely and arresting reminder that individuals - their ambitions, limitations and human nature - lie at the very heart of global catastrophe. Due Mar



#### Pigs at the Trough Lessons from Australia's **Decade of Corporate Greed**

Adam SCHWAB 256pp Tp \$32.95 The past decade has seen a period of unparalleled growth in executive remuneration. But while CEO's pay packets exploded, shareholders looked on helplessly as some of Australia's best-known companies self-destructed. When the fall eventually came, the executives were well protected. Shareholders and creditors were not so lucky. From Telstra's enriching of Sol Trujillo to the toppling of Eddy Groves's ABC Learning Centres and the untold accounts

of the billions lost by the collapsed Babcock & Brown, Allco Finance Group and MFS, Schwab tells the story of how a generation of executives, under the supervision of well-known and respected non-executive directors, pushed all the boundaries and sometimes sailed right over them - and got away with it. A pacey, irreverent read, but with a devastatingly serious message, this book gives investors invaluable insights into how to spot the telltale signs of impending corporate collapse and how to avoid being a victim.

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#### English Grammar for Dummies Australian Edition

Geraldine WOODS et al 368pp Pb \$34.95 Getting tangled up with grammar rules and misplaced apostrophes? Packed with expert advice, this Australian edition covers everything from basic sentence structure to the finer points of grammar.

#### **DVDs** REVIEWED BY VICTOR GALSTYAN

# Julia

Eric ZONCA (Dir) \$29.95 The title character of French auteur Eric Zonca's English language debut is a train wreck of a human being. An alcoholic at the end of her wits, Julia, as played by the brilliant Tilda Swinton, is on a sure path to spectacular self-destruction. She sees one last opportunity to solve all her problems

by kidnapping the grandson of a rich hotel owner. But things take a frightening turn when she makes one disastrous mistake after another. Engrossing to the last frame, this edgy thriller is impossible to look away from, thanks to Swinton's sweltering performance and Zonca's naturalistic and unpredictable direction. (2008) Rated MA

Brink of Life

Ingmar BERGMAN (Dir) \$34.95 Long unavailable on the home video market, Ingmar Bergman's astoundingly raw early masterpiece finally comes to our shores. It looks at three women in the last stages of childbearing. As they await the inevitable moment in their hospital room, their anxieties

and fears play out with unflinching intimacy in front of Bergman's camera. This is an uncompromising, 'anti-hormonal' exploration of the implications of motherhood for women, told with a lack of sentimentality that is quite remarkable even today. Bergman's most unjustly neglected film. (1958) Rated M

#### Naked Lunch

David CRONENBERG (Dir) \$19.95 This superlative adaptation of William S Burrough's seminal drug novel is as striking and bizarre today as when it was first released. Part autobiography, part hallucination and part political satire, Cronenberg's take on this 'unfilmable' book is surprisingly lucid and

entertaining - if you're willing to take the journey into one of the most bizarre psychosexual landscapes committed to screen. This new DVD edition features a restored print and Cronenberg's audio commentary. (1991) Rated M

#### Painters Painting



Emile DE ANTONIO (Dir) \$34.95 Documentaries about artists can be rather dry and wilfully pretentious, but that's not an accusation you could level on this key early 'document' on New York's post-war school of painting. Told exclusively by the artists and curators, gallery directors and collectors who

made them into household names, this is a startlingly authentic portrait of the last three decades of 'modernism' that saw New York become the undisputable art capital of the world. There are many surprisingly illuminating interviews with pariahs of this artistic Mecca, such as Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Joseph Stella and the ever-present Andy Warhol. Their frank discussions of their own works ensure that this film should truly be an enlightening experience (even for the initiated), helped greatly by the candid, matter-of-fact direction of the late Emile de Antonio. (1973) Rated PG



## The September Issue

R J CUTLER (Dir) \$34.95 An enormous popular success (for a documentary, that is!), this DVD takes an unprecedented insider's look at the working and professional life of the unofficial empress of the fashion world, Vogue editor Anna Wintour. While the woman behind The Devil Wears Prada (Pb \$24.95) somehow manages to remain a fascinating enigma,

this documentary does provide an immensely enjoyable tour of a highly exclusive universe where the colour scheme of a dress collection can make or break fortunes. (2009) Rated M

## Abbey's Bookshop



## **MISCELLANEOUS**



#### The Soros Lectures At the Central European University

George SOROS 144pp Hb \$29.99 Five seminal talks by George Soros in October 2009 are presented in one volume and offer a condensed and highly readable summary of his worldview and thoughts on economics and politics. The lectures are the culmination of a lifetime of practical and philosophical reflection. Soros discusses his general theory of reflexivity and its application

to financial markets, providing insights into the recent financial crisis. He examines the concept of open society, which has guided his global philanthropy, as well as the potential for conflict between capitalism and open society. Finally, he focuses on the way ahead, examining the increasingly important economic and political role that China will play in the future. Due Mar



#### Sex, Bombs and Burgers How War, Porn and Fast Food Created Technology as We Know it Peter NOWAK

344pp Tp \$32.99 War, porn and fast food quite rightly deserve their bad reputation. War is responsible for untold human suffering and death; porn is blamed for everything from marital infidelity to the erosion of our morals; and fast food is contributing to rising obesity levels, and the increasing uniformity and blandness of Western culture. So why

celebrate them? Well, according to Nowak, if it wasn't for war, porn and fast food, we might all still be living in caves. From cars to high-definition televisions, from website logins to microwave popcorn and slinkies, he reveals how our everyday lives have been shaped - for the most part indirectly - by war, porn and fast food. Due Mar



## Destination Saigon

Adventures in Vietnam Walter MASON

228pp Pb \$24.99 This charming and delightful book tells of Walter's love affair with Vietnam - the craziness, vigour, sultriness and pleasures of an infuriating country and the people within. He spends OIGON six months immersed in the everyday and extraordinary, the bustle of cities where personal space is non-existent, and the serenity of shrines and temples that transcend the grasping

hustle of modern life. His partner is Vietnamese and Walter has a longstanding affection for the country he has visited many times. A warm, humorous and colourful portrait of a place that many Australians are now discovering for themselves. Due Mar Lindy



#### Gift of the Gob

#### Morsels of English Language History

Kate BURRIDGE 320pp Tp \$27.99 Why can we fall in love but not in hate? What do codswallop and poppycock share? Why not one house and two hice? How come we scream blue murder and sing the blues? Burridge explores our language and the everlasting tug-of-love that exists between 'proper' English and its wayward relation: slang. She investigates the place where all that is 'wrong'

'bad' or 'sloppy' slips into everyday use, before becoming 'proper' in its turn! Join her on a fascinating journey through English language history as she untangles words and their meanings, and unearths centuries of spectacular changes that have transformed the very core of our language. These mouth-filling morsels of English language history demonstrate the poetic ingenuity of common language and celebrate its remarkable inventiveness. Due Mar



#### You Are Not a Gadget A Manifesto

Jaron LANIER 320pp Tp \$32.95 "Jaron Lanier's long-awaited book is fabulous - I couldn't put it down and shouted out Yes! Yes! on many pages. Lanier is a rare voice of sanity in the debate about the relationship between computers and we human beings. He convincingly shows us that the idea of digital computers having human-like intelligence is a fantasy - computers are tools and toys and,

like musical instruments, are created by us to enhance our humanity. But when they are badly designed, they diminish our individuality, freedom and humanity. This is a landmark book that will have people talking and arguing for years into the future." - Lee Smolin, author of The Trouble with Physics (Pb \$26.95).

#### MARCH SPECIALS WHILE STOCK LASTS



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A C GRAYI ING

Hh \$35 \$14 95 Grayling reflects upon the form of our world and its

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Andrew ROBERTS



An original, highly revisionist view of the relationship between the two greatest captains of their age. Napoleon fought Wellington by proxy years earlier in the Peninsula War, praising his ruthlessness in private while publicly deriding him. In contrast, Wellington publicly lauded Napoleon, but privately wrote long memoranda lambasting Napoleon's campaigning techniques. From the author of The Storm of War (Hb \$59.95) and Masters and Commanders (Pb \$26.95).

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Stephen TURNBULL

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#### Tip and Run

The Untold Tragedy of the Great War in Africa Edward PAICE Hb \$79.99 \$30.00



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A 'small war', consisting of a few 'local affairs', was all that was expected in August 1914 as Britain moved to eliminate the threat to the high seas of German naval bases in Africa. But two weeks after the Armistice was signed in Europe, British and German troops were still fighting in Africa - what one historian described as "a war of extermination and attrition without parallel in modern times!"

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who will win the next election and how to choose a housemate or puppy.







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## FROM EVE ABBEY



I had a very pleasant bookselling experience early in the New The Little Brince Year. A French visitor asked me about editions of Antoine de Saint

Exupery's The Little Prince. He told me he collects editions in every country he visits. After I found the English edition for him (\$24.95 Hb, or Penguin Classic edition - together with Letter to a Hostage - at \$19.95 Pb), I told him, to his surprise, that we also had the Latin version (Regulus \$21.95 Pb). While upstairs in Language Book Centre, he was able to enlarge his collection even

more as he bought the Ukrainian and Spanish editions. We also have it in French, of course, as well as Chinese, Greek, Italian, German, Portuguese and Dutch. It is a good feeling to find just the right book for the right person.

Here's another nice story. We have an elderly customer, an author, who comes in most Sundays and often asks if we have sold his book lately. Recently, when I confessed it was some years since we had sold a copy, he sadly commented that it was hardly worth stocking. However, because it is a Cambridge University Press title, and because we have a special arrangement with Cambridge which enables us to stock all their titles, we are able to continue stocking his book, Practical Applications of Radioactivity and Nuclear Radiations by Gerhart Lowenthal and Peter Airey (\$95, Hb at Pb price, 368pp). I promised I would mention it in Abbey's Advocate. It is suitable for scientists, technologists, teachers and students.

We do stock titles like this, along with many other slow-selling but important books, such as The Cambridge History of Christianity (7 volumes), The Cambridge History of Iran (8 volumes), The Cambridge History of Africa (7 volumes), The Cambridge History of Latin America (4 volumes), The Cambridge History of China (15 volumes), The Cambridge Ancient History (14 volumes) and even - as I boasted when Simon Winchester, author of Bomb, Book and Compass: Joseph Needham and the Great Secrets of China (\$26.95 Pb 336pp) was here - all 23 volumes of Needham's majestic work, Science and Civilisation in China. You'll need your credit card for most of these purchases, I suspect

Some other interesting Cambridge reference books are The Cambridge History of Medieval Political Thought c350 - 1450 by J H Burns (\$140 Hb 816pp) or The Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature by David Wallace (\$275 Hb 1,070pp).

So you can see, at Abbey's you can get not only the latest bestsellers and choose from the best crime section in the country, but also some important books that you're not likely to see in other bookshops around the world. As well, just upstairs, you can buy books to learn another language, or English as a Second Language, and you can browse and buy books in many other languages. We are a truly international bookshop here. Just along the road at 143 York Street, you can take a flight of fancy at our Galaxy Bookshop for Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror. Inspector Montalbano is back on SBS late on Sunday night and the books by Andrea Camilleri are back on our bestseller lists again, including Wings of the Sphinx and August Heat (both \$27.95 Pb). All Camilleri titles are also available in Italian in Language Book Centre. And we have three sets of three DVDs (Volumes 1, 2 and 3 \$49.95 each) with English subtitles. DVDs are now held upstairs. We have signed copies of some of Marshal Browne's banking thrillers set in Nazi Germany and featuring Franz Schmidt - Iron Heart (\$29.95 Tp) and The Eye of the Abyss (\$16.95 Pb 304pp). These are good.

I went to see Guy Ritchie's film version of Sherlock Holmes. I thought it very violent, mainly because it was old-fashioned fisticuffs, rather than special effects. It did, however, send me back to the originals. Peter Milne has a special Holmesiana section at the top of Historical Crime, where you will find a wonderful selection of Sherlock Holmes stories, plus some pastiche written by ardent admirers such as Alan Vanneman's Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra (\$29.95 Pb 316pp) or The Execution of Sherlock Holmes and Other New Adventures of the Great Detective (\$29.95 Pb 351pp) or Dining with Sherlock Holmes: A Baker Street Cookbook (\$49.95 large Pb 287pp incl index) - not just a recipe book, but also a look at Victorian cookery. There is a collection of essays by Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes (\$75 Hb 429pp incl bibliography) edited and with an introduction by Steven Rothman. Morley is the founder of the Baker Street Irregulars.

In the authentic Conan Doyle, your choice can range from the \$9.95 orange Penguin or the Penguin Sherlock Holmes boxed set (10 titles for only \$49.95, which is great value) or the Collectors' Edition of the Complete Sherlock Holmes (\$65 Hb) - a large, blue hardback with marbled end papers and gold edges. For the real addict, there are three volumes in The New Annotated



Sherlock Holmes, edited with notes by Leslie Klinger. There are over 1,000 annotations of historical information, as well as accepted Sherlockian theories. Volumes 1 and 2 in a slipcase (\$141.95 Hb set) contain all the short stories, while Volume 3 is a single volume in a slipcase (\$82.95 Hb) and contains the novels. I also discovered there is a good selection of Sherlock Holmes stories on CD in our Audio Crime section, so remember to look there too

In Biography, I especially recommend A Life in Letters: Arthur Conan Doyle





edited by Lellenberg, Stashower & Foley (\$28 Pb 710pp incl index). You get an idea of the enthusiasms of Arthur Conan Doyle - for writing, medicine, politics, sport and Spiritualism - and how delighted he was when he found he could live by his writing alone. At times, it seems the character he created is more real than the author.

I really enjoyed Thomas Keneally's Australians: Origins to Eureka (\$59.99 Hb 628pp incl index). This is a great book for a school library (and for others like me who enjoy narrative history) as he concentrates on individuals and their experiences, rather than events alone. It is very readable, offering a good sense of reality, and it is very, very nicely produced.

There is a new title in the excellent A Brief History of series. This is Martyn Whittock's A Brief History of Life in the Middle Ages (\$26.99 Pb 320pp incl index). Whittock also concentrates on the people - how they live and work. What do you think of this? In 1334, it cost 7 pence for a pound of sugar. This was equivalent to a day's wages for a skilled archer in the Hundred Years War. No wonder people had better teeth then! A rather more complicated approach is found in Jerry

Toner's Popular Culture in Ancient Rome (\$44.95 Pb 253pp incl index). This considers 'popular culture' (ie. of the non-elite) in an academic way and was more than I needed while watching a DVD series on Rome, brought home by daughter Jane, visiting from her job with the Karen Womens Organisation (please forgive the lack of an apostrophe, the Karen Women insist they do not want it). More serious readers will appreciate it, despite the price!

Here's a quirky, amusing book for idealists and language lovers - In The Land of Invented Languages: Esperanto Rock Stars, Klingon Poets, Loglan Lovers and the Mad Dreamers Who Tried to Build a Perfect Language by Arika Okrent (\$54 Hb 342pp incl index). The title says it all. Upstairs in Reference we have four shelves full of books about words. Publishers leapt onto the bandwagon after the success of Eats Shoots and Leaves: A Zero Tolerance Approach to



Punctuation by Lynn Truss (\$24.99 Pb). And next to Writing & Publishing is a small stand for Grammar & Writing a rubining to a current way word Usage. Take time to browse there.

We continue to sell copies of the huge (400mm high x 350mm wide and 64mm spine) and extraordinarily beautiful facsimile copy of Carl Jung's Red Book (\$290), which he worked on between 1914 and 1930 LYNNE TRUSS and which he considered his "confrontation with the

unconscious". It is a wonderful example of calligraphy and thought, comparable to The Book of Kells, yet never before published. Publishers W W Norton took several years to persuade the family to allow publication and just as they went to print, along came the Global Financial Crisis. Booksellers were slow to place big orders and Norton reduced the print run. Now, however, it is an international success and has been reprinted several times. It is certainly a book for collectors, art lovers and bibliophiles, even if not psychotherapists. I suspect it is more a book for coveting and looking at, than for reading. We have copies on a lectern in the shop and if you look on our website (Stay in Touch > The Red Book), you can see examples of the illustrations and calligraphy.



DRY*of* ZEALAND

So J D Salinger has died. I'm going to read The Catcher in the Rye again (\$22.95 Pb 208pp) just for the sheer pleasure. We also have stock of his other titles - For Esme with Love and Squalor, Franny & Zooey and Raise High the Roofbeam Carpenters / Seymour: An Introduction (all \$19.95 Pb). Indulge yourself and read these again. Don't wait for the vultures to open up the safe in Salinger's house. By the way, we also have The Catcher in the Rye in Korean (\$29.95 Pb) and you can order it in Russian or many other languages.

When you read this, I shall be sailing around the South Island of New Zealand on the Holland-America m.s. Volendam reading Michael King's The Penguin History of New Zealand (\$26.95 Pb 570pp incl index).

Keep well.

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by John Shelby Spong \$35.00 God, says Spong, is ultimately one, and each of us is part of that oneness. This is how we live on after death: not in Heaven or Hell, but as part of the eternity that continues after we die beyond the barriers of time and space.

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