

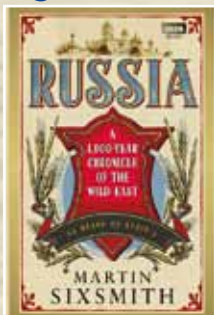
Abbey's
Choice

Abbey's Choice

Our pick of the new releases at Abbey's special prices



\$32.99 **\$27.99**
page 5



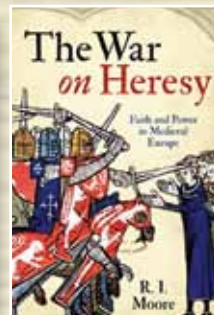
\$19.99 **\$14.99**
page 6



\$49.95 **\$39.95**
page 7



\$59.95 **\$49.95**
page 7



\$49.95 **\$39.95**
page 7



\$29.99 **\$24.99**
See Crime Chronicle



**WORLDWIDE
RELEASE**
10 May
608pp Tp \$32.99

Hilary MANTEL

Bring Up the Bodies

If you're one of the many fans of **Wolf Hall** (Pb \$19.99) then it won't matter what I say about this sequel, you will buy it anyway! Still, it will probably set your mind at rest to know this is every bit as amazing a read as the first one was. Set over the course of a year, 1435 to 1436, Thomas Cromwell still massages the ego of Henry, playing the dangerous game of managing his capricious whims, and navigating his way through the slippery politics of Henry's court - and pandering to Henry's desire for Jane Seymour. Anne Boleyn's star is fading and Cromwell is not going to help his enemy shine... One of the amazing things about Mantel's writing is that even though we know what happened, the reader is still swept up in the immediacy of the story and beguiled by the absorbing style of the novel. Recommended unreservedly! *Lindy*

Notes from Eve Abbey...

If you have not read Mary Durack's famous book, **Kings in Grass Castles**, hang your head in shame and read it soon. Published in 1959, it is always at Abbey's over fifty years later. [page 10]

Text Classics

**Cosmo Cosmolino
Helen Garner**

Originally published in 1992, this was a stylistic departure for Garner, and puzzled her readers somewhat. Full of long, beautifully constructed sentences, three stories are linked by the characters moving through time - and the appearance of angels.

The unnamed narrator of the first grapples with the illness of one of her oldest friends who holds their shared past in his inflexible memory. In the second, an awkward young man does nothing to save his girlfriend from her troubles, and for his carelessness, sees her crumble into ash - literally, after her funeral service at a crematorium. And the third sees three disparate characters collide with misunderstandings on all sides, in a neglected house that was once a vital hub. Re-reading this, I was struck by the beauty of Garner's language and the keen insights she always brings to her writing; and what seemed slightly weird back in 1992 now feels timeless. *Lindy*



ONLY \$12.95

I was extremely fortunate to study Australian literature during the heady pre-Bicentennial years, when universities actually encouraged students to consider the fine variety of writers and stories of our past. What happened in the ensuing years? We seemed to have lost our cultural pride... Thankfully, the good people at Text Publishing are redressing this with their range of *Text Classics*: an initial selection of 30 titles, only \$12.95 each and introduced by contemporary writers with a vital connection to the books.

Text Publishing is giving one fortunate customer the chance to win the entire selection - worth over \$385! And any Abbey's Cardholder who buys my recommended 'Classic Pick' will receive a **Discount Dollars \$5 voucher**.



Lindy

Buy a book at Abbey's before **Mother's Day, Sunday 13 May** to be in the draw for an exclusive overnight stay at the luxurious **SOFITEL Wentworth Sydney** and a pamper package at the **Lattouf Aveda Day Spa**.

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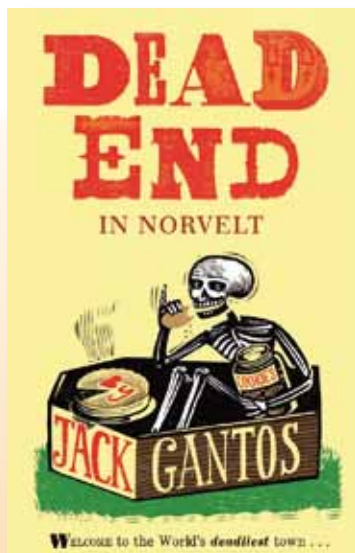
Australian Backyard Naturalist Peter Macinnis

Lots of things live in even the smallest, most urban, backyard and this book enthusiastically reveals what you can find if you just go out and look! Plenty of illustrations and photographs to complement the information about everything from the tiniest and slimmest, to the cutest and

furriest! With projects for all ages, this lively and entertaining book also contains anecdotes and history. A fine companion to **Australian Backyard Astronomy** and **Australian Backyard Explorer** (Pb \$29.95 each) 200pp Pb \$29.95

The New Jumper Oliver Jeffers

Rupert knits himself a nice new colourful jumper. Which shouldn't be so extraordinary, except that he is a Huey, and Hueys all look the same, dress the same, think the same - and what will happen if one of them does something different? And what happens if everyone does the same different thing as well? Jeffers does charming and slightly skewed books, and his deceptively simple illustrative style can sometimes hide decidedly sophisticated concepts. 32pp Hb \$24.99



Dead End in Norvelt Jack Gantos

It is 1962 and Jack is looking forward to the summer holidays in his quiet and dwindling home town. However, after an unintended incident involving his father's souvenired Japanese rifle and the local drive-in showing a war movie, Jack is grounded for the duration. He is allowed out only to help old Miss Volker across the road write her history columns and obituaries for the town newspaper. Norvelt, a co-operative town set up by Eleanor Roosevelt, is suddenly witnessing the deaths of its last remaining original residents and soon Miss Volker may be the only one left. Apart from the officious and unlikeable Mr Spizz... A charming, funny and delightful book, winner of the 2012 *Newbery Medal*. 341pp Pb \$14.95

Red Libby Gleeson

After a cyclone devastates Sydney, a young girl comes to. She has absolutely no idea who she is, where she is or what happened. Found by a streetwise boy who names her Red after her T-shirt she struggles to make sense of her surroundings as strange pieces of what might be her past surface through her amnesia. What seems to be a pendant around her neck turns out to be a memory stick and a message from her father - trust no-one, get this to Melbourne. With the help of Peri and a re-discovered, but unremembered, friend, Red sets off to deliver information that is vital to a commission into police corruption. Combines mystery with a road story. Ages 11-14. 180pp Pb \$15.99

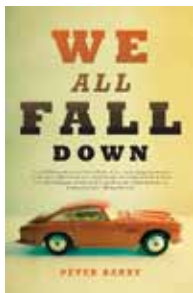


AUSTRALIAN FICTION

Mother's Day Sunday 13 May

We All Fall Down Peter Barry

Kate and Hugh Drysdale buy a house that stretches their financial limits. Hugh looks at the soaring property market, the fact he's earning a good salary, and all the signs of a booming economy and believes everything will be fine. And it is... until the advertising company he works for hits a rough patch. Set in Sydney, when world economic instability is beginning to bite, this is very much a book of our time. Peopled with unforgettable characters it is a disturbing portrait of family. From the author of **I Hate** **Martin Amis** (\$29.95) 336pp Tp \$29.95



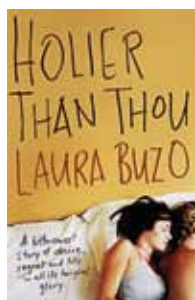
The Meaning of Grace Deborah Forster

Grace Fisher, mother of three, one day decides her husband is a disappointment and relocates the family. But her husband's depression leads him into an early grave, leaving the kids with a lifetime of questioning: what happened to their father, and how did he get so sad? Each child is left to find meaning on their own, while sibling rivalry proves the fiercest of burns. When Grace is diagnosed with terminal cancer, the siblings must confront each other as adults, and come to understand their mother. 288pp Tp \$32.95



A History of Books Gerald Murnane

This is a fictionalised autobiography told in 30 sections, each beginning with the memory of a book that has imprinted itself on the author's mind. The titles aren't given, but the reader follows the clues, recalling a parade of authors, the great, the popular and the now-forgotten. The images themselves, with their scenes of marital discord, violence and madness, give new intensity to Murnane's habitual concern with the anxieties and aspirations of the writing life, in the absence of religious belief. Pb \$26.95



Holier Than Thou Laura Buzo

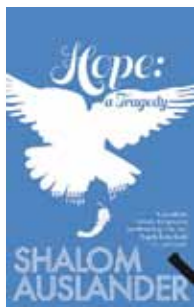
Holly Yarkov has a boyfriend who is a gift from the universe. She has a job that fulfils her even as it wears her down. She has a core group of friends from high school. And she has a layer of steel around her heart that is beginning to tarnish. Just as she is reaching for a future she can't quite see, Holly is borne back into the past by memories of her beloved father, and of the boy-who-might-have-been... 300pp Pb \$17.99



The Mountain Drusilla Modjeska

1968. Papua New Guinea is on the brink of independence. Amidst the turmoil, film-maker Leonard arrives from England with his Dutch wife, Rika, to study and film an isolated village high in the mountains. Rika and Leonard are confronted with the new university in Moresby, where the idealism of youth creates friction among locals such as Milton, a hot-headed young playwright. But it is when Rika meets brothers Jacob and Aaron that all their lives are changed forever... 448pp Tp \$32.95

FICTION



Hope
A Tragedy
Shalom Auslander
Solomon Kugel wishes for nothing more than to be in a place with no past, no wars, no genocides. The rural town of Stockton, New York, is famous for nothing, which is why Kugel relocates his

family there. But his ailing mother won't stop reminiscing about the Nazi concentration camps she never actually suffered through. But one night, when Kugel discovers a living, breathing, thought-to-be-dead specimen of history hiding in his attic, bad very quickly becomes worse... 304pp Hb \$34.95

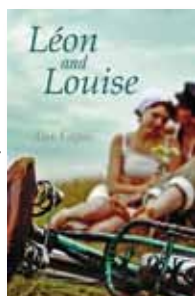


HHhH
Laurent Binet
Prague, 1942. Two Czechoslovakian parachutists are sent on a daring mission by London to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the Nazi secret services. His boss is Heinrich Himmler, but everyone in the SS says

"Himmler's brain is called Heydrich", which in German spells 'HHhH'. All the characters in this novel are real. All the events depicted are true. But when you are a novelist writing about real people, how do you resist the temptation to make things up? Also available in French (\$22.50) 336pp Tp \$32.95

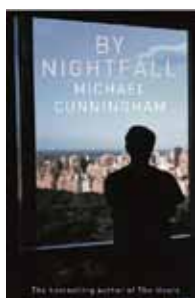
Leon and Louise
Alex Capus

The story of an enduring passion that survives the vicissitudes of world history and the passage of time - beginning in 1918 and spanning 40 years. Leon and Louise are long-separated lovers. In German-occupied Paris, Leon must wage a lone battle against the abhorrent tasks imposed on him by the SS, while his wife fights stubbornly for her family's survival. In French West Africa, Louise confronts the hardships of her environment with courage and humour. 265pp Hb \$32.99



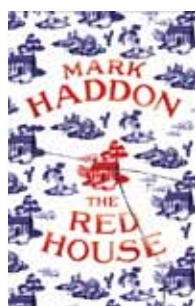
By Nightfall
Michael Cunningham

Peter Harris is the prosperous owner of a big New York apartment and a player in the contemporary art scene. He has been married to Rebecca for almost 20 years. Their marriage is sound and Peter can describe himself as happy. But then Rebecca's much younger brother Mizzy visits. Beautiful, 23 years old, with a history of drug problems, Mizzy is looking for direction. And in his presence, Peter finds himself questioning the entire world he has so carefully constructed... 256pp Pb \$19.99



The Red House
Mark Haddon

After his mother's death, Richard decides to build bridges with his estranged sister, inviting Angela and her family for a week in a rented house on the Welsh border. Four adults and four children, a single family and all of their strangers. But in the stillness of the valley, ghosts rise up. The parents Richard thought he had. The parents Angela thought she had. Past and present lovers. Friends, enemies, victims, saviours. And watching over all of them from the dark hill, Angela's stillborn daughter... 272pp Tp \$29.95



The Boy Who Could See Demons
Carolyn Jess-Cooke

Alex Broccoli is 10 years old, enjoys onions on toast, and can balance on the back legs of his chair for 14 minutes. His best friend is a 9,000-year-old demon called Ruen. When his depressive mother attempts suicide yet again, Alex meets child psychiatrist Anya. Still bearing the scars of her own daughter's battle with schizophrenia, Anya fears for Alex's mental health. But eventually she is faced with a question: is Alex schizophrenic... or can he really see demons? 400pp Pb \$19.99



FILM TIE-INS

Delicacy
David Foenkinos

Natalie was once a happily married young woman with a promising future. But when her husband was run over by a car, her whole world was turned upside down. Years later, still bruised with grief but desperate to move on with her life, she impulsively kisses her colleague Marcus. For Natalie, the kiss is just a gratuitous act. For Marcus, it is the moment he falls helplessly in love. How will he ever convince Natalie that he is the man who can bring her back to life? 256pp Pb \$19.99



The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
Deborah Moggach

Enticed by advertisements for a newly restored palatial hotel and filled with visions of a life of leisure, good weather and mango juice in their gin, a group of very different people leave England to begin a new life in India. On arrival they are dismayed to find the palace is a shell of its former self, the staff more than a little eccentric, and the days of the Raj long gone. But, as they soon discover, life and love can begin again, even in the most unexpected circumstances. 288pp Pb \$19.95



In One Person
John Irving

Billy is the bisexual narrator and main character of this tragicomic story that spans more than half a century and tells of Billy's life as a 'sexual suspect' - a phrase first used by John Irving in 1978 in his landmark novel



The World According to Garp (Pb \$19.95). This political novel is a poignant tribute to Billy's friends and lovers - a theatrical cast of characters who defy category and convention. Not least, this is an intimate portrait of a solitary character who is dedicated to making himself worthwhile. 448pp Tp \$32.95

Under the Sun
Justin Kerr-Smiley

South Pacific, WWII. On a dawn patrol, young RAF Spitfire pilot Edward Strickland is shot down attacking a submarine and ends up on a remote island occupied by a Japanese garrison. The garrison's commander Captain Tadashi Hayama brutally interrogates his captive and a battle of wills develops between the two men. But events take an unexpected turn and the island becomes a kind of Eden. Yet the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will shatter the idyll forever... 248pp Pb \$24.99



An Unexpected Guest
Anne Korkeakivi

Clare Moorhouse is an American in Paris and the wife of a high-ranking diplomat. Tonight she must host an unexpected dinner party, one crucial to her husband's career. But the potential move means wrestling with a secret that has been carefully buried for 20 years. Even more unsettling is a face in the streets of Paris, which she glimpses again and again. A face that belonged to another, darker era of her life, and one she never expected to see again... 272pp Tp \$29.99



Truth Like the Sun
Jim Lynch

Seattle, 1962. Roger Morgan, an audacious young promoter, wants to pull off the ultimate coup de theatre: the World's Fair. Roger dazzles everyone he meets and is still a backstage power 40 years later when, at the age of 70, he makes a surprise bid for mayor. Helen Gulanos, a new journalist in town, resolves to uncover the real Roger from behind the warm handshakes and glossy receptions... because even Seattle's golden boy must have something to hide. 320pp Tp \$29.99



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FIFTY SHADES...

Fifty Shades Darker Fifty Shades Freed E L James

Novels #2 and #3 in this sensational trilogy.

Darker: Ana Steele has broken off her relationship with Christian to start a new career with a US publishing house. But desire for Grey still dominates her every waking thought and when he proposes a new arrangement, she cannot resist.

Freed: Together they share a world of infinite possibilities. But tragedy and fate combine to make Ana's worst fears come true... 384pp Pb \$17.95 each



The Incident Kenneth Macleod

Craig was a teenage lifeguard on a beach in Germany when two children died on his watch. It should never have happened. He was an expert swimmer. His grandfather, Gordon McInnes, was a survivor off a ship torpedoed during the war. Years later, he met one of the crew of the U-boat that attacked his ship. Recruited by the Stasi at a very young age, Gerd escaped to the West after his mission went terribly wrong. This is a story about how incidents long past can reverberate across generations... 336pp Tp \$29.99



The Girl Who Fell from the Sky Simon Mawer

Marian Sutro is the half-French, half-British daughter of a diplomat. But when she is recruited from her desk job to go undercover in wartime France, her hybrid status will be of service to a greater cause. Trained to kill, she travels to Paris, where she must seek out family friend Clement Pelletier, a nuclear physicist engaged in the race for a terrifying weapon. What will complete her training is the understanding that neither love nor country can be trusted in times of war... 320pp Tp \$29.99



Life! Death! Prizes! Stephen May

For 19-year-old Billy and his little brother Oscar, their mother's death in a bungled street robbery is the most random and stupid thing that could possibly have happened. Now Billy must be a parent to Oscar and he believes he is up for the job. The boys' new world is built out of chaos and fierce love... but it's also a world that teeters perilously on its axis. And as Billy's obsession with his mother's missing killer grows, he risks losing sight of the one thing that really matters. 256pp Tp \$29.99



The Hundred-Foot Journey Richard C Morais

When tragedy strikes in Mumbai, restaurant owner Abbas Haji propels his boisterous family into a journey across Europe, settling in the remote French village of Lumiere, where he establishes an Indian restaurant - Maison Mumbai. Much to the horror of their neighbour, a famous chef named Madame Mallory, the Indian establishment opposite her own begins to garner a following. Thus ensues an entertaining culinary war pitting Abbas against the imperious Madame Mallory! 336pp Pb \$23.99



The Chaperone Laura Moriarty

In 1922, Cora Carlisle boards a train from Kansas to New York City, leaving behind an imperfect marriage. She is charged with the care of a stunning 15-year-old girl with a jet-black fringe and wild eyes. This girl is hungry for stardom, and Cora for something she doesn't yet know. It is under the bright lights of Broadway that Cora finds what she is searching for. It is here that Cora and her charge take the first steps towards their dreams... 400pp Pb \$29.95



If You're Reading This, I'm Already Dead Andrew Nicoll

Otto Witte is an old man and the Allies are raining bombs on his city. Convinced that he will not see the sunrise, he decides to write the story of his life. And it's quite a story!



Years earlier, when he was in either Buda or Pest, working at the circus, a dear friend brought him the newspaper. Inside was an article about how Albania was looking for a particular Turkish prince, because the country was in need of a new king. And this Turkish prince is the image of Otto... 400pp Tp \$27.99

Secrets of the Tides Hannah Richell

Every family has its secrets. Some are small. Others are more serious. And some secrets are so terrible they could tear a family apart. The Tides are a family full of secrets. Returning to Clifftops, the rambling family house perched high on the Dorset coastline, youngest daughter Dora hopes for a fresh start, for herself and the new life she carries. But can long-held secrets ever really be forgiven? And even if you can forgive, can you ever really learn to love again? 416pp Tp \$29.99



The Watch Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya

Following a desperate night-long battle, a group of beleaguered soldiers in an isolated base in Kandahar are faced with a lone woman demanding the return of her brother's body. Is she a spy, a black widow, a lunatic or what she claims to be: a grieving sister intent on burying her brother according to local rites? As she persists, single-minded in her mission, the camp's tense, claustrophobic atmosphere comes to a boil as the men argue about what to do next. 336pp Tp \$32.95



Dirt David Vann

It is 1985 and 22-year-old Galen lives with his emotionally dependent mother in a suburb of Sacramento. Both survive on old family money - an inheritance that his Aunt Helen and 17-year-old cousin, Jennifer, are determined to get their hands on. A bulimic vegetarian who considers himself an old soul, Galen is a New Age believer yearning for transformation. When the family takes a trip to the Sierras, Galen discovers just how far he will go to attain the transcendence he craves. 240pp Tp \$29.95



Skagboys Irvine Welsh

Edinburgh, 1980s. Mark Renton has it all: he's young, good-looking, with a pretty girlfriend and a place at university. But Thatcher's government is destroying working-class communities across Britain. When his

family begins to fracture, Mark's life swings out of control and he succumbs to defeatism and the heroin flooding his disintegrating community. This is a time of drugs, poverty, AIDS, violence, political strife and hatred - but it's a decade that changed Britain forever. Prequel to the world-renowned **Trainspotting** (Pb \$12.95). 560pp Tp \$32.95

My Dear, I Wanted to Tell You Louisa Young

While Riley Purefoy and Peter Locke fight for their country and sanity in the trenches, Nadine Waveney, Julia Locke and Rose Locke remain at home. Julia and Peter are married. Each day,

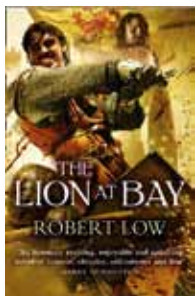


Julia prepares for her beloved husband's return. Nadine and Riley, only 18 when the war started, want above all to make promises - but how can they when the future is not in their hands? And Rose? What happens to the women who lost all hope of marriage, because all the young men were dead? 336pp Pb \$19.99

HISTORICAL FICTION

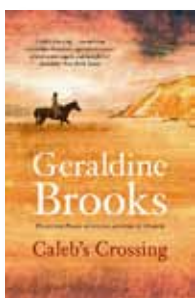
The Lion at Bay Robert Low

William Wallace has returned home to Scotland from France, though he still faces betrayal from his own. His loyalty is to the previous king, John Baliol, now a prisoner of the Pope. Knights Templar, Cathar heretics and a Curse laid on the ambitious Earl of Carrick - known as 'the Bruce' - and his family all conspire against him, as well as King Edward's forces. Murder and treachery will be crucial weapons in the bloody rise to the coronation of the Bruce... 400pp Tp \$29.99



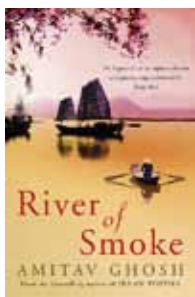
Caleb's Crossing Geraldine Brooks

America, 1665. When Bethia Mayfield, a 12-year-old living in the rigid confines of an English Puritan settlement, meets Caleb, the young son of a Wampanoag chieftain, the two become friends. But Bethia's father, a Calvinist minister, resolves to convert the Wampanoag to his own faith. Caleb soon becomes a prize in a contest between old ways and new, eventually taking his place at Harvard, while Bethia is entangled in Caleb's struggle to navigate the divide between their two cultures. 432pp Pb \$22.99



River of Smoke Amitav Ghosh

In 1838, a storm blows up on the Indian Ocean. A ship carrying convicts and labourers from Calcutta to Mauritius is caught in the whirlwind and tossed into the crowded harbours of China. There, despite the efforts of the emperor, ships from Europe and India exchange their cargoes of opium for boxes of tea, silk, porcelain and silver. This tale follows a motley collection of people in pursuit of romance and riches, who must cope with their losses in the alleys and waterways of 19th century Canton. 592pp Pb \$22.99



Cromwell's Blessing Peter Ransley

1647. The King has surrendered to Parliament, and Lord Stonehouse has named Tom as his successor. But Lord Stonehouse's son, Richard, is also Tom's estranged father and a fervent Royalist.

If the King reaches a settlement with Parliament, Richard will inherit. Parliament itself is deeply divided with those demanding a strict Puritan regime pitted against more liberal Independents like Cromwell. And King Charles, under house arrest, will try to exploit the divisions between them... 384pp Tp \$32.99

BIOGRAPHY

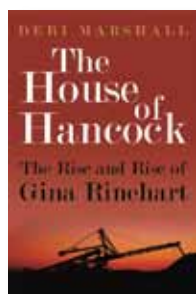
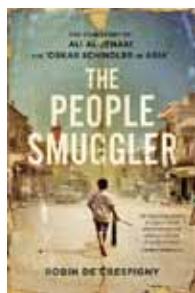
The Recluse Evelyn Juers

Eliza Emily Donnithorne has long been considered the character model for Miss Havisham in Charles Dickens' **Great Expectations**. For most of her life, she lived in isolation in a large house in the inner-Sydney suburb of Newtown. It was said that she had been jilted at the altar and become an eccentric recluse. But who was she really? This is the story of Juers' quest to find the elusive Eliza Donnithorne, who was born in South Africa and lived in India, England and Australia. Pb \$24.00



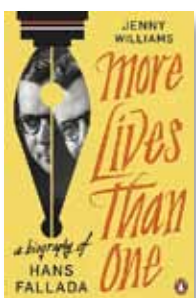
The People Smuggler The True Story of Ali al Jenabi, the 'Oskar Schindler of Asia'

Robin de Crespigny
Ali al Jenabi is an Iraqi refugee who escaped from torture and was determined to bring his family to Australia. When he reached Indonesia, he was betrayed by a people smuggler, prompting him to establish his own business that would treat fellow refugees more fairly. This is the engrossing story of how he survived for years without a passport or a state, how the people smuggling business functions, and how Ali was treated when he and his family finally arrived in Australia. 336pp Tp \$29.95



The House of Hancock The Rise and Rise of Gina Rinehart Debi Marshall

Gina Rinehart was heir to one of Australia's largest fortunes, having been groomed from a young age by her father, Lang Hancock, to take over his mining company. Then along came Rose, the Filipina housekeeper Lang married in 1984. Hancock's death in 1992 opened floodgates of endless litigation, with Rose and Gina fighting it out in the courts for their share of Lang's assets. Marshall asks what is next for Australia's wealthiest person. Tp \$34.95



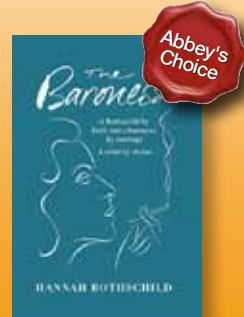
More Lives Than One A Biography of Hans Fallada Jenny Williams

A drug addict, womaniser, jailbird and thief, Fallada was also one of the most extraordinary storytellers of the 20th century. His novels, such as **Alone in Berlin** (Pb \$26.95), portrayed ordinary people with a powerful humanity. His decision to remain in Nazi Germany in 1939 led to his self-destruction and made him a unique witness to his country's turmoil. 352pp Pb \$24.95

The Baroness

The Search for Nica the Rebellious Rothschild Hannah Rothschild

A Rothschild by birth and a Baroness by marriage, beautiful, spirited Pannonica - or Nica - seemed to have it all: children, a handsome husband and a trust fund. But in the early 1950s, she heard the music of jazz legend Thelonious Monk. Like a spell, the music overtook her and she abandoned her marriage to go and find Monk. Arriving in New York, she was shunned by society, but accepted by the musicians. Her Bentley was a familiar sight outside the clubs and she drank whisky from a hip flask disguised as a Bible. Her notoriety was sealed when drug-addicted saxophonist Charlie Parker died in her apartment. 320pp Tp ~~\$32.99~~ **\$27.99**



Why be Happy When You Could be Normal?

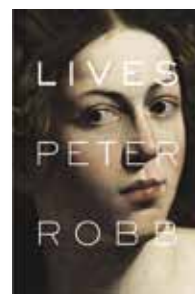
Jeanette Winterson

In 1985, Jeanette Winterson's first novel, **Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit** (Pb \$12.95), was published. It was Jeanette's version of the story of a terraced house in Accrington, an adopted child, and the thwarted giantess, Mrs Winterson. It was a cover story, a painful past written over and repainted. It was a story of survival. Generous and honest, this book is that story's silent twin, full of hurt and humour and a fierce love of life. 240pp Pb \$19.95

Lives

Peter Robb

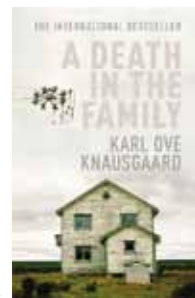
Robb has an uncanny ability to show people in a new light, to home in on what makes them tick. In Australia, these range from Alex Dimitriadis to Ivan Milat, from Marcia Langton to Julian Assange. In Italy, Robb immerses the reader in the worlds of Fellini, Caravaggio, Calvino and Pasolini. Elsewhere, his observations of E M Forster, Arthur Rimbaud, Peter Carey and Gore Vidal illuminate the real people behind the public image. A fascinating exploration of notable lives. 400pp Tp \$32.95



A Death in the Family

Karl Ove Knausgaard

In this utterly remarkable biography, Karl writes with painful honesty about his childhood and teenage years, his infatuation with rock music, his relationship with his loving yet almost invisible mother and his distant and unpredictable father, and his bewilderment and grief on his father's death. When Karl becomes a father himself, he must balance the demands of caring for a young family with his determination to write great literature. 400pp Tp \$32.95

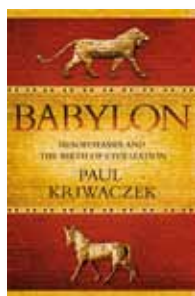


HISTORY

Babylon

Mesopotamia and the Birth of Civilization
Paul Kriwaczek

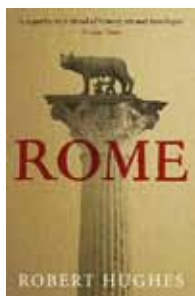
The story of ancient Mesopotamia from the earliest settlements around 5400 BC to the eclipse of Babylon by the Persians in the sixth century BC. The author chronicles the rise and fall of dynastic power and examines its numerous material and socio-cultural innovations. 320pp Pb \$24.99



Rome

A Cultural History
Robert Hughes

For almost 1,000 years, Rome held sway as the spiritual and artistic centre of the world. From the ancient Rome of Julius Caesar, to the artistic blossoming of the Renaissance led by the Old Masters, to the assured cultural predominance of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, Hughes brilliantly analyses the defining works of each era. Rome is a vibrant place and Hughes takes readers on an exhilarating journey through one of the world's most glorious cities. 624pp Pb \$24.99



The Scramble for China

Foreign Devils in the Qing Empire, 1832-1914
Robert Bickers

In the early 19th century, China remained almost untouched by British and European powers, but as new technology changed this balance, foreigners gathered around the weakening Qing Empire. Would the Chinese suffer the fate of the rest of the colonised world, carved into pieces by Europeans? Or could they adapt rapidly enough to maintain independence? This important book explains the roots of China's complex relationship with the West by illuminating a dramatic period of its history. 512pp Pb \$24.95



Wicked Company

Freethinkers and Friendship in Pre-Revolutionary Paris
Philipp Blom

From the 1750s to the 1770s, the Paris salon of Baron d'Holbach was an epicentre of debate, intellectual daring and revolutionary ideas, uniting vivid personalities - Denis Diderot, Adam Smith, Benjamin Franklin, the radical ex-priest Guillaume Raynal, the Italian Count Beccaria and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Blom retraces the fortunes and characters of this exceptional group of friends and brings to life their startling ideas, largely forgotten by historians. 384pp Pb \$35.00



London in the Eighteenth Century

A Great and Monstrous Thing
Jerry White

18th century London was very much a new city, risen from the ashes of the Great Fire. With thousands of homes and many landmark buildings destroyed, it had been brought to the brink. But the following century was a period of vigorous expansion, scientific and artistic genius, reason, civility, elegance and manners. 704pp Hb \$55.00



Running the Show

Governors of the British Empire 1857-1912
Stephanie Williams

Who were the men governing the Empire in the 19th century? From Fiji to the Falkland Islands, from Malaysia to Australia and South Africa, from Lagos to Ottawa, ordinary British men and women were dispatched to strange places, among strange people, and faced unimaginable conditions. Some started wars. Others fought disease, injustice and slavery. Many died or went mad. Drawing on vast sources, this book reveals the day-to-day lives of governors at the height of the British Empire. 512pp Pb \$22.95



Reagan and Thatcher

The Difficult Relationship
Richard Aldous

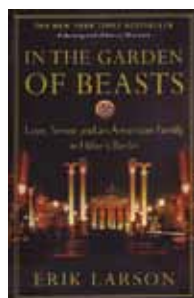
Contrary to popular opinion, Reagan and Thatcher clashed repeatedly - over the Falklands War, the invasion of Grenada and the Strategic Defense Initiative and nuclear weapons - while carefully cultivating a harmonious image for the public and the media. With the stakes enormously high, these political titans struggled to work together to confront the greatest threat of their time: the USSR. Reconstructing some of their most dramatic encounters, Aldous dismantles the popular conception of the Reagan-Thatcher diplomacy. 352pp Tp \$34.95



In the Garden of Beasts

Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin
Erik Larson

In 1933, William E Dodd became America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany, bringing his family with him to Berlin. The ambassador's daughter is at first entranced by the pomp and parties, and by the young men with their infectious enthusiasm for the 'New Germany'. But as evidence of Jewish persecution mounts, Dodd telegraphs his concerns to a largely indifferent State Department back home. This is a stunning and tense eyewitness perspective of events as they unfold in real time. 464pp Pb \$24.95



ABBEY'S CHOICE

Russia

A 1,000-Year Chronicle of the Wild East
Martin Sixsmith

As a former BBC Moscow correspondent, Sixsmith shows how Russia's complex identity has been formed over a thousand years and how it can help us understand its often baffling behaviour at home and abroad. He skilfully traces the conundrums of modern Russia to the roots in its troubled past and explains the nation's seemingly split personality as the result of influences that have divided it for centuries. Essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the complex political landscape of Russia, and its unique place in the modern world. 624pp Pb \$19.95 **\$14.95**

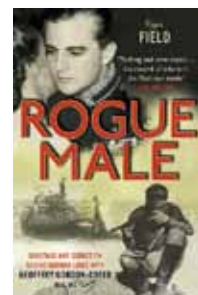


Abbey's Choice

Rogue Male

Sabotage and Seduction Behind German Lines with Geoffrey Gordon-Creed, DSO, MC
Roger Field

During WWII in the deserts of North Africa, Gordon-Creed proved himself to be a soldier of superb athleticism with an unwavering instinct when it came to outwitting the enemy. To the men he fought alongside, he was 'Saint Geoff'; to his critics he was a womaniser, more interested in enjoying himself than killing the enemy. This is a frank account of how to win a war by being more ruthless than your enemy! 384pp Pb \$22.99



Double Cross

The True Story of the D-Day Spies
Ben Macintyre

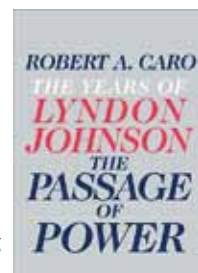
D-Day was the turning point of WWII, involving every branch of Allied wartime intelligence - including one of the oddest military units ever assembled. Five double agents: a bisexual Peruvian playgirl, a tiny Polish fighter pilot, a Serbian seducer, a Spaniard with a diploma in chicken farming, and a hysterical Frenchwoman obsessed with her dog. These spies helped carry thousands of troops across the Channel into safety. 432pp Pb \$29.99



The Passage of Power

The Years of Lyndon Johnson
Robert A Caro

Following the arc of Johnson's career through his volatile relationship with the Kennedys during the 1960 Democratic nomination for president, followed by his unhappy role as vice president. For the first time, we discover the story of JFK's assassination from Johnson's viewpoint and his genius in obtaining the presidency. It was his finest hour, before being overshadowed by the trap of Vietnam. 752pp Hb \$49.95



The Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England

Ian Mortimer

The reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603) is often thought of as a golden age, but what was it actually like to live in Elizabethan England? Mortimer shows a society making great discoveries and winning military victories, yet at the same time it is a country in which life expectancy at birth is in the early thirties, people still starve to death and Catholics are persecuted for their faith. Yet it produces some of the finest writing in the English language, some of the most magnificent architecture and sees settlement in America and circumnavigation of the globe. 432pp Hb \$49.95 **\$39.95**



Abbey's Choice

The Spirit of Venice

From Marco Polo to Casanova

Paul Strathern

The Republic of Venice was the first great economic and naval power of the modern Western world. After winning the struggle for ascendancy against its bitter Genoese rivals in the late 13th century, the Republic enjoyed centuries of unprecedented glory and a trading empire which at its apogee reached as far afield as China, Syria and West Africa. This golden period ended with the eventual surrender to Napoleon. Rich with biographies of exalted characters, this is a refreshing and authoritative history of this most evocative city state. 368pp Hb \$59.95 **\$49.95**



Abbey's Choice

The War on Heresy

Faith and Power in Medieval Europe

R I Moore

In AD 1000, heresy had barely been heard of. Yet within a few generations, accusations had become commonplace and institutions were set up to suppress beliefs and practices seen as departures from true religion. Fears of heresy inspired passions and resulted in a series of persecutions that left an indelible mark on its history and culture. Some scholars by contrast have tried to show that reports of heresy were exaggerated or even fabricated: but if they are correct, why was it conducted with such pitiless ferocity? 416pp Hb \$49.95 **\$39.95**



Abbey's Choice

Colonel Gaddafi's Hat

Alex Crawford

A portrait of the last gasps of Gaddafi's regime, Crawford offers extraordinary insight into modern political conflict and the nature of journalism. The first journalist on the scene at key points in the Libyan conflict, she has been arrested, shot at, tear gassed and interrogated in the course of her career. A heart-stopping ride through a dramatic moment in modern history, this is a window into both the craft of war journalism and the amazing story of Libya's road to freedom. 304pp Pb \$24.99



50 People Who Stuffed Up Australia

Guy Rundle & Dexter Rightwad

Our Great Southern Land started out just that - Great. But what has happened after several centuries of white settlement and 'development' and 'progress'. Has greatness been chipped away? Who is responsible? Enter Guy and Dexter who point the finger at 50 people who have basically stuffed it for the rest of us. Instead of a roll call of dreary achievements, read on for 50 notable stuff ups - from Arthur Phillip and Ned Kelly to Dame Edna and Eddie McGuire. Pb \$26.95



The Crisis of Zionism

Peter Beinart

Beinart tackles the danger to Israeli democracy and the American Jewish establishment's refusal to confront it. Offering a fascinating portrait of the two leaders at the centre of the crisis - Barack Obama, an American president steeped in liberalism; and Benjamin Netanyahu, an Israeli prime minister who considers liberalism the Jewish people's curse - Beinart proposes that the relationship between American Jews and Israel must change before it's too late. 288pp Tp \$32.99



SCIENCE

Madlands

A Journey into the Climate Fight

Anna Rose

Rose, a co-founder of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, embarked on a journey around the world with conservative powerbroker and climate sceptic Nick Minchin. From a remote Hawaiian volcano to a cosmic ray laboratory in Geneva, Anna attempts to change Nick's mind. This journey aims to explain - not just to one man, but to a divided nation - what is happening to our climate and why this is one of the biggest issues of our time. 368pp Tp \$29.99



How it Began

A Time-Traveler's Guide to the Universe

Chris Impey

This vibrant, eye-opening tour of milestones in the history of our universe guides us through space and time, leading us from the familiar sights of the night sky to the dazzlingly strange aftermath of the Big Bang. It takes time for light to travel, so we see more distant regions of the universe as they were in the successively greater past. Using this concept, we are taken on an intergalactic tour that is simultaneously out in space and back in time. 400pp Hb \$34.95



The Geek Manifesto

Why Science Matters

Mark Henderson

We live in a society where the Government's drugs adviser was sacked for making a decision based on scientific fact, rather than public opinion. Whether we want to improve education or cut crime, science and its experimental method is critical. Henderson shows us what needs to happen to entrench scientific thinking more deeply into politics and society towards positive action. 304pp Tp \$32.95

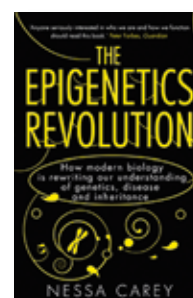


The Epigenetics Revolution

How Modern Biology is Rewriting Our Understanding of Genetics, Disease and Inheritance

Nessa Carey

Epigenetics is the fastest-moving field in biology today and this book traces the thrilling path this discipline has taken over the last 20 years. Deftly explaining diverse phenomena - such as how queen bees and ants control their colonies, why tortoiseshell cats are always female, why some plants need a period of cold before they can flower, why we age, develop disease and become addicted to drugs - Carey reveals the amazing possibilities that epigenetics offers for us all. 320pp Pb \$22.99

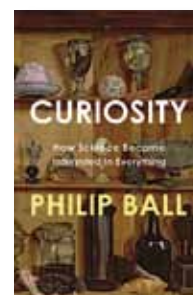


Curiosity

How Science Became Interested in Everything

Philip Ball

The so-called Scientific Revolution is often told as a story of great geniuses illuminating the world with flashes of inspiration. But Ball reveals a more complex story, in which the liberation of curiosity was linked to magic, religion, literature, travel, trade and empire. By examining the rise of curiosity, we ask how it functions in science, how it is spun and packaged and sold, how well it is being sustained and honoured, and how the changing shape of science influences the questions it may ask. 480pp Hb \$49.95

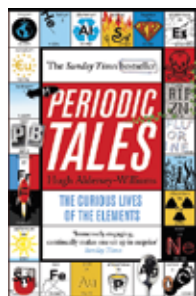


Lily's Number Puzzles

Lily Serna

Coming from the hugely successful SBS quiz show, *Letters and Numbers*, you can now explore even more number puzzles from the TV show's maths guru, Lily Serna. Pb \$19.95





Periodic Tales

The Curious Lives of the Elements

Hugh Aldersey-Williams

Like you, the elements have personalities and stories rich in meaning. Meet iron that rains from the heavens, and noble gases that light the way to vice. Learn

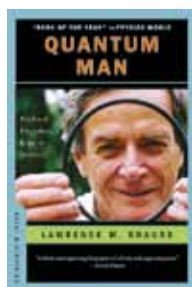
how lead can tell your future, while zinc may one day line your coffin. You'll discover what connects the bones in your body to the Whitehouse in Washington; the glow of a streetlamp to the salt on your dinner table. Embark on a voyage of discovery that will reveal how the lives of the elements are inextricable from our own. 448pp Pb \$22.95

Quantum Man

Richard Feynman's Life in Science

Lawrence M Krauss

Perhaps the greatest physicist in the late 20th century, Richard Feynman changed the way we think about quantum mechanics. Krauss, himself a theoretical physicist, offers a unique scientific biography: a narrative coupled with expositions of science at the limits. From the death of Feynman's childhood sweetheart during the Manhattan Project to his reluctant rise as a scientific icon, we see Feynman's life through his science, providing an understanding of the man who has fascinated millions. 368pp Pb \$19.95



Floating Gold

The Search for Ambergris, the Most Elusive Natural Substance in the World

Christopher Kemp

Ambergris is a by-product of sperm whales, used for centuries as a perfume, medicine and aphrodisiac. It appears on beaches all over the world and depending on what state it's in, can be mistaken for all manner of things. For those in the know, it's an amazing source of wealth, worth almost as much as gold. 320pp Pb \$29.99



The Great Animal Orchestra

Finding the Origins of Music in the World's Wild Places

Bernie Krause

Krause has spent the last 40 years recording ecological soundscapes. Half the soundscapes he has on tape don't even exist any more because of human actions. He invites us to listen through his ears as he showcases natural soundscapes and the roar of the modern world. Just as streetlights engulf the stars, Krause argues that human noise drowns the sounds of nature, and it is critical to preserve what remaining soundscapes we have. 320pp Pb \$29.99

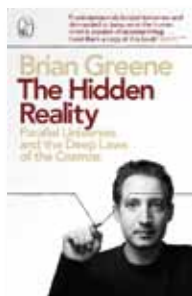


The Hidden Reality

Parallel Universes and the Deep Laws of the Cosmos

Brian Greene

There was a time when 'universe' meant all there is. Everything. Yet ours may be just one universe among many, like endless reflections in a mirror. Greene takes us on a captivating exploration of parallel worlds, from a multiverse where an infinite number of your doppelgangers are reading this sentence, to vast oceans of bubble universes and even multiverses made of mathematics, showing just how much of reality's true nature may be hidden within them. 384pp Pb \$24.95

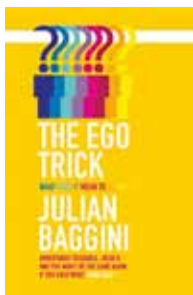


Connectome

How the Brain's Wiring Makes Us Who We Are

Sebastian Seung

Seung believes our identity lies not in our genes, but in the connections between our brain cells - our own particular wiring. Leading the effort to map these connections, he aims to uncover the basis of personality, identity, intelligence, memory and perhaps disorders such as autism and schizophrenia. A daring scientific vision for understanding what makes us who we are. 384pp Tp \$29.95



The Ego Trick

What Does it Mean to Be You?

Julian Baggini

With wit and bracing scepticism, Baggini sets out to answer fundamental and unsettling questions about the human ego. His quest draws on the history of philosophy,

as well as anthropology, sociology, psychology and neurology. He talks to theologians, priests, allegedly reincarnated Lamas and delves into real-life cases of lost memory, personality disorders and personal transformation. And, with candour, his own experiences. 304pp Pb \$22.99

Behind the Shock Machine

The Untold Story of the Notorious Milgram Psychology Experiments

Gina Perry

In 1961, a group of people volunteered for an experiment conducted by psychologist Stanley Milgram. They would be asked to administer a series of electric shocks to a man they'd just met. What the volunteers didn't know was that the man was an actor, the shocks were fake, and what was being tested was how far they would go. Milgram's methods have since been criticised as unethical. Perry uncovers an intriguing story of how Milgram's plans went further than anyone imagined. 432pp Tp \$29.95



TODAY'S WORLD

Tiger Head, Snake Tails

China Today, How it Got There and Where it is Heading

Jonathan Fenby

Fenby links together the myriad features of today's China. The binary approach so often applied to China as either 'good' or 'bad' often stems from the prejudices of its authors. By seeing China as a whole, Fenby arrives at a coherent picture of its nature, depicting its future and its impact on the rest of the world. 432pp Hb \$39.99



Rich Land, Wasteland

How Coal is Killing Australia

Sharyn Munro

For nearly a year, Munro travelled through rural Australia, visiting communities in coal-mining areas. Literally at the coal-face, towns and districts are dying as homeowners and farmers are forced out by the expansion of the mining industry. Munro exposes the real story of coal: how people are hurting and rebelling, how the true costs really stack up against the benefits of our mining boom, and what's really happening to those individuals and communities who are ultimately paying the price. 464pp Tp \$29.99

An Incredible Race of People

Bob Katter

Bob Katter Jr is one of Australia's best known federal politicians. He's forthright, outspoken and has achieved notoriety as a politician of real conviction across an astonishing breadth of issues. Katter is a complex man and he's passionate about what has made this country great - and what is needed to ensure that it remains so as we negotiate our way into the 21st century. Here he urges us to consider, discuss, and act to ensure Australia's future remains bright. 464pp Hb \$39.99



The Mammoth Book of Conspiracies

Jon E Lewis

Entertainingly written and closely documented, this book uncovers 100 of the most secret cover-ups in an accessible A-Z format. Featuring a full bibliography and introduction, this title features military, medical, religious, alien, intelligence, banking and historical cover-ups that 'they' really don't want you to know about - including up to date fresh cover-ups relating to Barack Obama, Michael Jackson and Afghanistan. 624pp Pb \$12.99

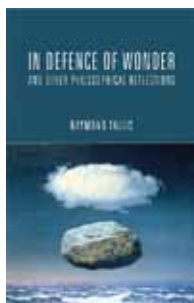


In Defence of Wonder

And Other Philosophical Reflections

Raymond Tallis

In these lively and provocative essays, Tallis debunks commonplace truths, exposes woolly thinking and takes to task much of contemporary science and philosophy, arguing that we have lost sight of 'wonder' - the metaphysical intoxication that first gave birth to philosophy 2,500 years ago. He tackles some meaty topics - memory, time, language, truth, fiction, consciousness - but always with verve and wit. 256pp Tp \$34.95

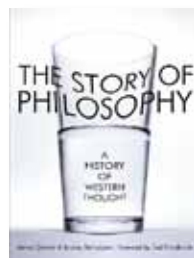


The Story of Philosophy

A History of Western Thought

James Garvey & Jeremy Stangroom

At the heart of this book are all the ideas and obsessions that have captured great philosophical thinkers from the very beginning. Packed with intriguing anecdotes and fascinating detail, it brings us face to face with the most important philosophers in Western history. Rigorous, refreshingly free of academic jargon and highly accessible, this is the ideal introduction for anyone seeking new perspectives on philosophy's biggest thoughts. 384pp Tp \$34.99



Seven Years with Banksy

Robert Clarke

Clarke takes us through his first encounters with celebrated graffiti artist Banksy, which took place in a hotel in New York in the 1990s, and candidly describes how his friendship with this young English artist developed. Along the way, readers will discover more about the mysterious Banksy - what makes him tick, why he does what he does, and why he ultimately rejects fame in favour of anonymity, setting him apart from many other artists of our time. 224pp Pb \$29.95



ROBERT CLARKE
GP1897.com.au



Why Nations Fail

The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty
Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson

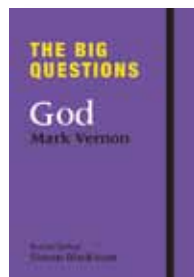
Economists and scientists have offered useful insights into the reasons for poverty and the problems facing developing nations. But most theories ignore the

incentives and institutions that populations need to invest and prosper. Based on 15 years of research, this book blends economics, politics, history and current affairs to provide a persuasive new understanding of wealth and poverty. 320pp Tp \$35

The Big Questions: God

Mark Vernon

In the latest in *The Big Questions* series, Vernon answers the 20 key questions about God, including: Can reason prove the existence of God? Why do people still have religious beliefs? If you're not religious, is nothing sacred? Is religion inherently violent? What is Buddhist enlightenment? Is nature divine? Does human suffering rule out God? Will science bring the end of religion? And of course... is there life after death? 208pp Hb \$19.99



A Banksia Album

Two Hundred Years of Botanical Art
Alex George

This stunning volume features over 90 full-colour reproductions of watercolours, pencil and sepia-wash drawings,

colour prints, early hand-coloured engravings and lithographs of banksias from the National Library of Australia's collections. It covers over two centuries of botanical illustration - from 1770 when the *Endeavour's* artist, Sydney Parkinson, was the first European to make drawings of banksias at Botany Bay - to 2007 with two prints of *Banksia rosserae* by Celia Rosser. 132pp Pb \$34.95



Ticket to Paradise

A Journey to Find the Australian Colony in Paraguay Among Nazis, Mennonites and Japanese Beekeepers
Ben Stubbs

In 1893, Queensland journalist William Lane dreamed of creating a socialist utopia, convincing 238

followers to sail with him to Paraguay to create a new paradise. Expecting green and fertile fields, the New Australians found a dustbowl, abstinence and monogamy. In 2010, Stubbs visited central Paraguay to examine the remnants of New Australia, discovering utopian colonies where the inhabitants lead strange double lives. 320pp Pb \$27.99

Triumph of the City

How Our Greatest Invention Made Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier and Happier
Edward Glaeser

Travelling from city to city, speaking to planners and politicians across the world, Glaeser uncovers questions large and small whose answers are both counterintuitive and deeply significant. Should New Orleans be rebuilt? Why can't my nephew afford an apartment in New York? Is London the new financial capital of the world? Is my job headed to Bangalore? From Mumbai to Paris, Rio, Detroit and Shanghai, Glaeser reveals how cities think and why they behave the way they do. 456pp Pb \$21.99



Love and Hunger

Thoughts on the Gift of Food
Charlotte Wood

In this age of gastro-porn and the fetishisation of food, their is pressure to be an expert, like the chefs we've turned

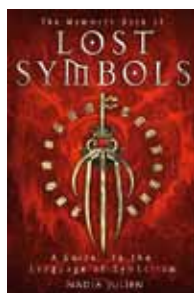
into celebrities. An instant antidote to such madness is this wise and practical book - an ode to good food, prepared and presented with minimum fuss and maximum love. Cooking represents creativity in its purest form and can nourish the soul, the mind and the body. 320pp Tp \$29.99

The Mammoth Book of Lost Symbols

A Guide to the Language of Symbolism

Nadia Julien

Humanity has always used symbols - material objects used to denote difficult, abstract concepts - to describe thoughts and feelings, or to protect secret truths from common knowledge. This concise A-Z guide is a fascinating work of reference that brings to light all the symbols and symbolism of the world, many aspects of which have been lost to time, including Freemasonry, the Kabbalah, the tarot, astrology, alchemy, Zoroastrianism and ancient cultures from Egypt to Japan. 512pp Pb \$12.99

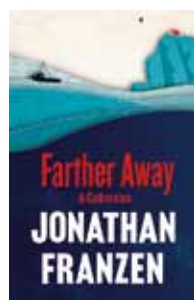


Farther Away

A Collection

Jonathan Franzen

This book gathers together Franzen's essays and speeches written mostly in the past five years, where he returns to human and literary themes that have long preoccupied him. Whether recalling his violent encounter with bird poachers in Cyprus, examining his mixed feelings about the suicide of his friend David Foster Wallace, or offering a witty take on how technology has changed the way people express their love, these pieces deliver on Franzen's promise to conceal nothing from the reader. 352pp Pb \$24.99



Gin

A Global History

Lesley Jacobs Solmonson

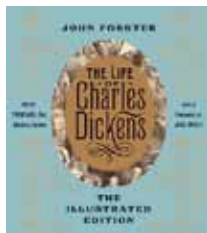
The story of gin begins with the aromatic juniper berry originally used by the Dutch. The drink then made its way to Britain, where cheap imitations made it the drink of choice for poor

18th century Londoners. During the Jazz Age, gin became a mainstay of a new drinking culture: the cocktail. This history will attract both cocktail aficionados and lovers of food history as it chronicles gin's evolution from cheap liquor to modern alcoholic marvel. Other titles in the *Edible* series include: **Rum**, **Vodka** and **Herbs** (Hb \$24.99 \$19.99 each while stocks last) 128pp Hb \$19.99



A

And so the celebrations continue for the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens with a splendid production, a large format hardback called **The Life of Charles Dickens** by John Forster (\$59.99 Hb 512pp) Illustrated Edition. This is an abridged edition of the original three-volume biography of Dickens by his friend Forster. The rich selection of illustrations, all well-chosen, some even double-page spreads, the double dust-jacket, lovely end-papers and glossy paper throughout make this an excellent gift. Not a book to read all at once, but one to read idly while studying the illustrations, bit by bit. There is a foreword by Jane Smiley and a chronology of the various novels, often with small excerpts. Great value, this is suitable for both the real Dickens lover and newcomers to Dickens.



Another beautiful production is **May Gibbs: More than a Fairy Tale: An Artistic Life** by Robert Holden & Jane Brummitt (\$49.95 Hb 230pp incl index). The padded covers show those gorgeous gumnut babies in their eucalyptus leaf hiding places. There are intriguing end-papers and endless colour illustrations on almost every page. It is interesting to read about the genteel English family migrating to Australia with dreams of being pastoralists. Fortunately, they eventually settled in Perth, making a real contribution to the cultural life of that city. May's all-round artistic ability is well shown and it is nice to know the gumnut babies were not her only success. A really delicious book!

I took a little while before reading Elliot Perlman's latest book **The Street Sweeper** (\$32.95 Pb 550pp incl bibliography). After all, I do prefer books which are shorter! Nonetheless I was very pleased to read this excellent story, which provides a moving description of the lives of Holocaust victims, as well as of American negro workers. There are harrowing stories of the death camps, but I think it is time to hear these again. As the prisoners kept repeating, "tell everyone what happened here". I see this novel has managed to slide onto the long list for the *Miles Franklin Award*, even though the Australian connection in the story is minimal. I think choosing the winner this year will be even more difficult than usual. I'm hoping Kate Grenville goes home with the prize as she missed out in 2006 when **Secret River** (\$24.95 Pb 362pp) was such a success, and the award went to Roger McDonald for **The Ballad of Desmond Kale** (\$19.95).

I really enjoyed **Boomerang** by Michael Lewis (\$39.95 Hb 212pp). He seems to have cornered the market for popular books on economics since his success with **Liar's Poker** (\$22.99 Pb 504pp), which was the frightening but funny story of his trading at Saloman Brothers in New York in the heady 1980s. In **Boomerang**, he travels to Finland, Greece, Ireland and finally Germany as the Global Financial Crisis comes to an end (we hope). It is not only enlightening, but also laugh-out-loud funny. Some think Ireland's banking system was even more bizarre than Finland's. For instance, one bank was lending solely to property developers who were building 50% more houses than the UK was building, yet the UK had fifteen times as many people to house. Surprise surprise, there were not enough buyers!

Another interesting economics book I read recently is **Maonomics** by Loretta Napoleoni (\$32.95 Pb 320pp). China's approach to capitalism was especially relevant when I read **Where China Meets India** by Thant Myint-U (39.99 Hb 384pp) as I described to you last month. You might also like to read his own personal history of Burma, called **The River of Lost Footsteps** (\$23.95 Pb 388pp).

We all know that Brenda Niall is a first-class biographer. She has written about the Boyds, Judy Cassab and Georgiana McCrae, and her new biography is a gem. It is **True North: The Story of Mary and Elizabeth Durack** (\$32.95 Pb 291pp incl index). Daughters of the pioneering pastoralist family, they both lost their hearts to the Kimberley landscape. If you have not read Mary Durack's famous book, **Kings in Grass Castles** (\$12.95 Pb *Vintage Classics*), hang your head in shame and read it soon. Published in 1959, it is always on the shelf here at Abbey's over fifty years later. Mary was the mediator in the

family and was always willing to help other writers, at a cost to herself, for when did she find time to write? She also had six children and a not very cooperative husband – founder of the MacRobertson-Miller Airlines. I was amazed to read just how many books she wrote, despite her many community roles in Western Australia. Elizabeth was a more wayward character, determined to be recognised as an artist, not an illustrator. The book also spends time describing the life of their brothers. If you are about to tour the Kimberley, this would be a good book to read. You can even visit the re-built Durack homestead overlooking Lake Eyre, formed when the Ord River was dammed.

Have you been watching *The Time Traveller's Guide to Australia* on ABC TV? You might like **Running Down: Water in a Changing Land** (\$49.95 Hb 276pp), which seems to be the last of the wonderful books about Central Australia by Mary E White. And I especially recommend **Lake Eyre: A Journey Through the Heart of the Continent** by Paul Lockyer (\$59.99 Hb 240pp). This superbly produced book includes artwork from John Olsen, as well as the photographs taken by John Bean and pilot Gary Ticehurst who died last year in a helicopter crash, together with Lockyer, in the process of this journey.

Did you ever see the little segment on the ABC TV Arts programme on Sunday afternoons which described "Guilty Pleasures"? One of those guilty pleasures was "Staying Inside All Day and Watching the Complete Series of a TV Programme". I've been doing just that - watching the complete four series of *Mad Men*, the historically and culturally accurate story of people working in advertising in New York in the 1960s. Very addictive! I was compelled to read another version of the story in **Mad Women: The Other Side of Life on Madison Avenue in the 1960s and Beyond** by Jane Maas (\$27.99 Pb 267pp). Jane was one of that minority of female success stories in advertising. She also wrote, together with some Ogilvie & Mather colleagues, **How to Advertise: What Works, What Doesn't and Why** (\$54.95 Pb 240pp). The third revised edition of this classic was published in 2005 and includes information on the internet and interactive media. **Mad Women** is not only a good story about the people and the activities in that time and what fun they had, it is also in effect a history of advertising and a history of the Working Mum. Read it to remember how difficult it was for women to succeed in business, but also to see that not everything is so good today. I was pleased to note one co-worker state she always had a copy of Strunk and White's **Elements of Style** (\$15.95 Pb) on her desk. It keeps turning up, that book! There is even a special illustrated edition of **Elements of Style** by noted New York artist Maira Kalman (\$39.95 Hb 145pp).

If you've seen the film, you might like to read the book of **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** by Paul Torday (\$22.99 Pb 352pp), which is very amusing. When this book first came out, it followed another very funny novel called **A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian** (\$24.95 Pb 336pp) by Marina Lewycka, which was nothing to do with tractors but a lot to do with ambitious Eastern European blondes taking a fancy to the elderly father.

May sees the arrival of some really excellent Australian novels written by writers who have been unjustly forgotten. Thanks to Text Publishing, we will see thirty *Text Classics* at just \$12.95 each. Titles include **The Watch Tower** by Elizabeth Harrower, **The Glass Canoe** by David Ireland, **The Women in Black** by Madeleine St John and **The Commandant** by Jessica Anderson. I remember selling all of these and enjoying them. Each title has a special introduction by a current writer. Look out for them.

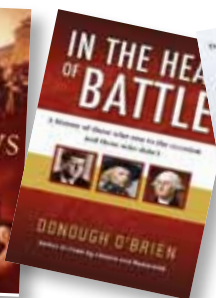
Keep well,

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WHILE
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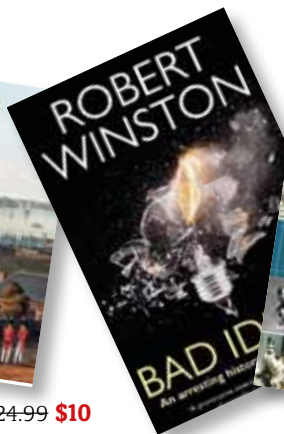
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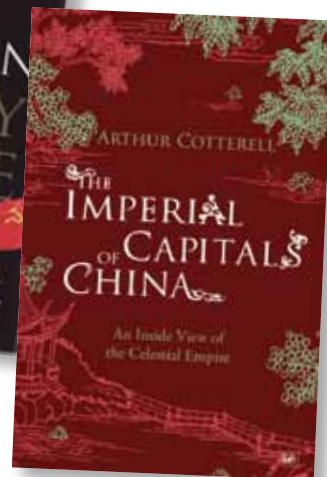
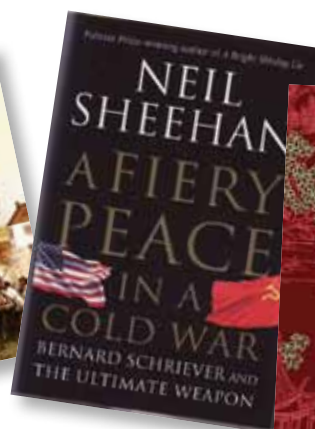
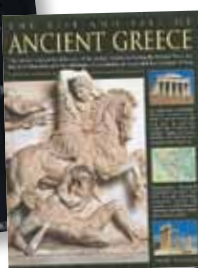
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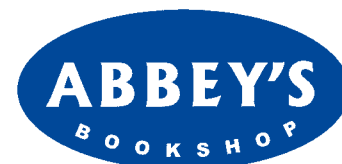
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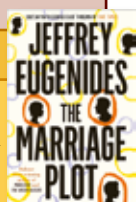


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