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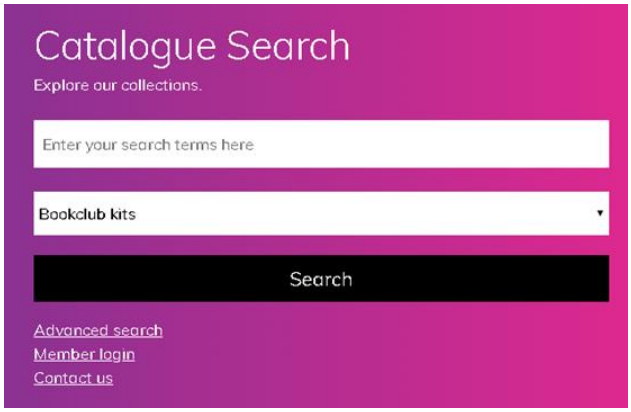
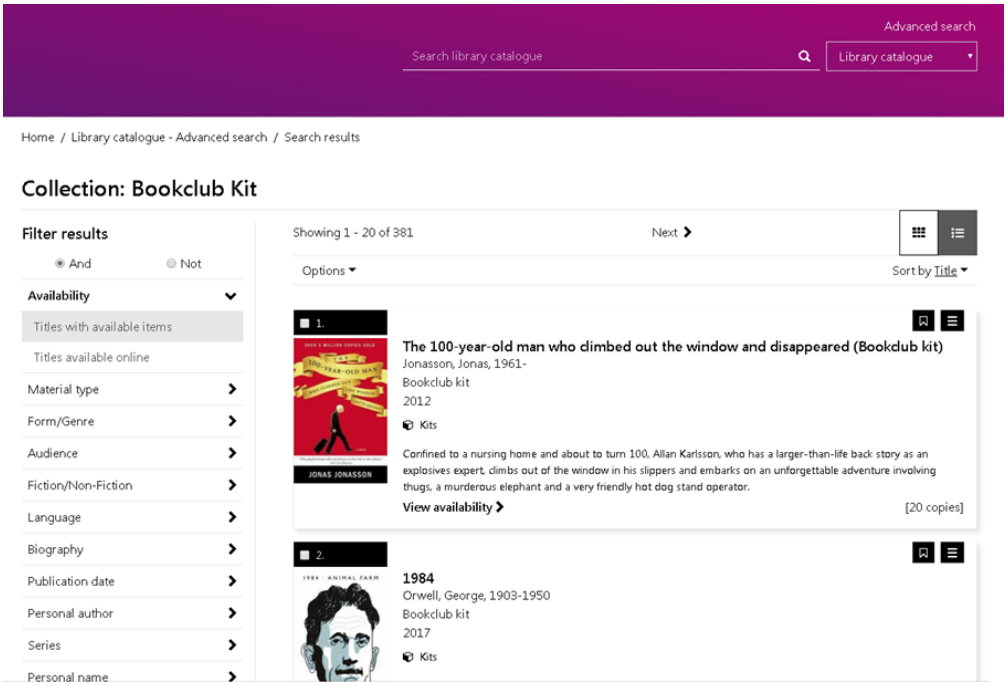
BOOK CLUB

HOW TO SEARCH FOR AVAILABLE KITS

The easiest way to search for available book club kits on our catalogue is to select **Bookclub kits** in the drop-down menu.



From the search results page you can then filter by **Titles with available items**. Check availability and location by clicking **View availability**.



If you give us a few days' notice, an available Bookclub Kit can be sent to any branch for you to collect.

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BOOK CLUB

ALL BOOK CLUB KITS

Click on any title for full details. To print a simple list, select pages 2-8.

Title	Author	Pub		
100-year-old man who climbed out the window and disappeared	Jonasson, Jonas	2012		
1984 and Animal Farm	Orwell, George	1949 1945		
57 bus, The	Slater, Dashka	2018		
84, Charing Cross Road	Hanff, Helen	1970		
Above the fold	Yeldham, Peter	2014		
After	Gemmell, Nikki	2017		
After you	Moyes, Jojo	2015		
Alchemist, The	Coelho, Paulo	1993		
Alias Grace	Atwood, Margaret	1996		
Alice network, The	Quinn, Kate	2017		
All that I am	Funder, Anna	2011		
All the light we cannot see	Doerr, Anthony	2014		
Amber amulet, The	Silvey, Craig	2012		
American prison	Bauer, Shane	2018		
An American marriage	Jones, Tayari	2018		
An ordinary epidemic	Hickie, Amanda	2015		
Anatomy of a miracle	Miles, Johnathan	2018		
Ancillary justice	Leckie, Ann	2013		
And the mountains echoed	Hosseini, Khaled	2013		
Anil's ghost	Ondaatje, Michael	2000		
Animal people	Wood, Charlotte	2011		
Any ordinary day	Sales, Leigh	2018		
Apple tree yard	Doughty, Louise	2014		
Art of travel, The	De Botton, Alain	2002		
Artist's portrait, The	Keys, Julie	2019		
Autumn Laing	Miller, Alex	2011		
Balzac & the little Chinese seamstress	Sijie, Dai	2001		
Becomng	Obama, Michelle	2018		
Behind the beautiful forevers	Boo, Katherine	2012		
Bellman & Black	Setterfield, Diane	2013		
Before we were yours	Wingate, Lisa	2017		
Best of Adam Sharp, The	Simsion, Graeme	2016		
Best we could do, The	Bui, Thi	2017		
Big little lies	Moriarty, Liane	2014		
Book of Rachael, The	Cannold, Leslie	2011		
Book thief, The	Zusak, Markus	2005		
Boy in the striped pyjamas, The	Boyne, John	2006		
Boy behind the curtain, The	Winton, Tim	2016		
Boy swallows universe	Dalton, Trent	2018		
Boys in the boat, The	Brown, Daniel James	2014		
Bride test, The	Hoang, Helen	2019		

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Brooklyn	Toibin, Colm	2009		
Burial rites	Kent, Hannah	2013		
Calling me home	Kibler, Julie	2013		
Casual vacancy, The	Rowling, J K	2012		
Champagne	Kladstrup, Don	2006		
Children Act, The	McEwan, Ian	2014		
Chocolate tin, The	McIntosh, Fiona	2016		
Choke, The	Laguna, Sofie	2017		
Church of marvels	Parry, Leslie	2015		
City of friends	Trollope, Joanna	2017		
Cloud Atlas	Mitchell, David	2004		
Collected works of A J Fikry, The	Zevin, Gabrielle	2014		
Colette's France	Jane Gilmour	2017		
Commonwealth	Patchett, Ann	2016		
Crazy rich Asians	Kwan, Kevin	2013		
Curious incident of the dog in the night time, The	Haddon, Mark	2004		
Daisy Jones and The Six	Reid, Taylor Jenkins	2019		
Day we met, The	Coleman, Rowan	2015		
Defending Jacob	Landay, William	2013		
Disgrace	Coetzee, J M	1999		
Distant hours, The	Morton, Kate	2010		
Dreamers, The	Walker, Karen Thompson	2019		
Dressmaker, The	Ham, Rosalie	2015		
Dry, The	Harper, Jane	2016		
Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine	Honeyman, Gail	2017		
Empire of the sun	Stewart, Peter	1984		
End of your life book club, The	Schwalbe, Will	2012		
Enduring love	McEwan, Ian	1997		
Erotic stories for Punjabi widows	Jaswal, Balli Kaur	2017		
Every note played	Genova, Lisa	2018		
Everyone brave is forgiven	Cleave, Chris	2016		
Everything I never told you	Ng, Celeste	2014		
Everywhere I look	Garner, Helen	2016		
Ex-libris: Confessions of a common reader	Fadiman, Anne	2012		
Exit west	Hamid, Mohsin	2017		
Extinctions	Wilson, Josephine	2016		
Eye of the sheep, The	Laguna, Sofie	2014		
Faithful	Hoffman, Alice	2016		
Family secrets	Byrski, Liz	2014		
Fates and furies	Groff, Lauren	2015		
Fear and loathing in Las Vegas	Thompson, Hunter S.	1972		
Feel good guide to menopause, The	Gates, Nicola	2019		
Fence, The	Jaffe, Meredith	2016		
Fifth letter, The	Moriarty, Nicola	2017		
Fishermen, The	Obioma, Chigozie	2015		
Flesh wounds	Glover, Richard	2015		
Flight behaviour	Kingsolver, Barbara	2012		
Flowers of Baghdad	Lyman, Bruce	2012		

Follow the rabbit proof fence	Pilkington, Doris	1996		
Force of nature	Harper, Jane	2017		
Forgotten garden, The	Morton, Kate	2016		
Freedom at midnight	Collins, Larry & Lapierre, Dominique	2017		
Garden of evening mists, The	Tan, Twan Eng	2012		
Gentleman in Moscow, A	Towles, Amor	2018		
Gift of rain, The	Tan, Twan Eng	2007		
Girl at war	Novic, Sara	2015		
Girl in hyacinth blue	Vreeland, Susan	2000		
Girl on the train, The	Hawkins, Paula	2015		
Go set a watchman	Lee, Harper	2015		
God in ruins, A	Atkinson, Kate	2015		
Golden age, The	London, Joan	2014		
Golden boys	Hartnett, Sonya	2014		
Golden child, The	James, Wendy	2017		
Gone girl	Flynn, Gillian	2012		
Good people, The	Kent, Hannah	2016		
Goodwood	Throsby, Holly	2016		
Gossip	Gutcheon, Beth	2013		
Great alone, The	Hannah, Kristin	2018		
H is for Hawk	MacDonald, Helen	2014		
Happiest refugee, The	Do, Ahn	2010		
Hare's fur	Shearston, Trevor	2019		
Harp in the south, The	Park, Ruth	1948		
Hazel wood, The	Albert, Melissa	2018		
Hidden figures	Shetterly, Margot Lee	2016		
Hidden life of trees, The	Wohlleben, Peter	2017		
Highways to a war	Koch, Christopher J	1996		
Holding	Norton, Graham	2016		
Home fire	Shamsie, Kamila	2017		
How to be free	Hodgkinson, Tom	2007		
How to stop time	Haig, Matt	2017		
Husband's secret, The	Moriarty, Liane	2013		
I am Malala	Yousafzai, Malala	2013		
I am Pilgrim	Hayes, Terry	2014		
Immortal life of Henrietta Lacks, The	Skloot, Rebecca	2010		
Immortalists	Benjamin, Chloe	2018		
In the garden of the fugitives	Dovey, Ceridwen	2016		
In the heart of the sea	Philbrick, Nathaniel	2015		
Inaugural meeting of the Fairvale ladies book club, The	Green, Sophie	2017		
Instructions for a heatwave	O'Farrell, Maggie	2013		
Into the water	Hawkins, Paula	2017		
Island of a thousand mirrors	Munaweera, Nayomi	1996		
Island of sea women, The	See, Lisa	2019		
It takes a village	Stinson, Christine	2011		
Japanese lover, The	Allende, Isabel	2015		
Jasper Jones	Silvey, Craig	2009		
Jean Harley was here	Johnson, Heather Taylor	2017		
Joe Cinque's consolation	Garner, Helen	2004		

Kindness of your nature, The	Olsson, Linda	2011		
Lab Girl	Jahren, Hope	2017		
Lake house, The	Morton, Kate	2015		
Language of flowers, The	Diffenbaugh, Vanessa	2011		
Last explorer, The	Nasht, Simon	2006		
Last great Australian adventurer, The	Bass, Gordon	2017		
Last painting of Sara de Vos, The	Smith, Dominic	2016		
Leonardo Da Vinci	Isaacson, Walter	2018		
Let me sing you gentle songs	Olsson, Linda	2005		
Library book, The	Orlean, Susan	2018		
Lieutenant, The	Grenville, Kate	2009		
Life after	Ganshert, Katie	2017		
Life we bury, The	Eskens, Allen	2014		
Light between oceans, The	Stedman, M L	2012		
Lincoln in the bardo	Saunders, George	2017		
Little fires everywhere	Ng, Celeste	2017		
Little life, A	Yanagihara, Hanya	2016		
Little Paris bookshop, The	George, Nina	2015		
Longbourn	Baker, Jo	2014		
Lost children archive	Luiselli, Valeria	2019		
Lost man, The	Harper, Jane	2018		
Love song of Miss Queenie Hennessy, The	Joyce, Rachel	2014		
Lying game. The	Ware, Ruth	2018		
Man called Ove, A	Backman, Fredrik	2014		
Manhattan Beach	Egan, Jennifer	2017		
March	Brooks, Geraldine	2005		
Margaret Thatcher school of beauty, The	Mehran, Marsha	2013		
Milkman	Burns, Anna	2018		
Midnight dress, The	Foxlee Karen	2013		
Midnight watch, The	Dyer, David	2016		
Mimi	Ellmann, Lucy	2013		
Ministry of utmost happiness, The	Roy, Arundhati	2017		
Missing Christopher	Newling, Jane	2014		
Moment of lift, The	Gates, Melinda	2019		
Mort	Pratchett, Terry	1987		
Mothers, The	Bennett, Brit	2016		
Mother's Promise, The	Hepworth, Sally	2017		
Mr Mac and me	Freud, Esther	2014		
Mr Penumbra's 24 hour book store	Sloan, Robin	2012		
Mountain, The	Modjeska, Drusilla	2012		
Murder in Mississippi	Safran, John	2013		
My brilliant friend (Book 1)	Ferrante, Elana	2012		
My brother Jack	Johnston, George	1964		
My family and other animals	Durrell, Gerald	2006		
Narrow road to the deep north, The	Flanagan, Richard	2013		
Natural way of things, The	Wood, Charlotte	2015		
Necessary lies	Chamberlain, Diane	2013		
Night guest, The	McFarlane, Fiona	2014		
Nightingale	McIntosh, Fiona	2014		
Nine perfect strangers	Moriarty, Liane	2018		

No friend but the mountains	Boochani, Behrouz	2018		
Normal people	Rooney, Sally	2018		
Not forgetting the whale	Ironmonger, J W	2015		
Ocean at the end of the lane, The	Gaiman, Neil	2013		
Once we were sisters	Kohler, Sheila	2017		
One life: My mother's story	Grenville, Kate	2015		
Only story, The	Barnes, Julian	2018		
Ordinary Grace	Kreuger, William Kent	2014		
Other side of the world, The	Bishop, Stephanie	2015		
Our souls at night	Haruff, Kent	2015		
Pachinko	Lee, Min Jin	2017		
Paris wife, The	McLain, Paula	2011		
Penguin Bloom	Bloom, Cameron	2016		
People of the book	Brooks, Geraldine	2008		
People smugger: The true story of Ali al Jenabi	De Crespigny, Robin	2012		
Persepolis	Satrapi, Marjane	2004		
Persuasion	Austen, Jane	1817		
Picnic at Hanging Rock	Lindsay, Joan	1967		
Picnic at Hanging Rock (stage version)	Lindsay, Joan Wright, Tom	2017		
Picture of Dorian Gray, The	Wilde, Oscar	1891		
Place called winter, A	Gale, Patrick	2016		
Playing Beatie Bow	Park, Ruth	1982		
Possession	Byatt, A S	1990		
Postmistress, The	Blake, Sarah	2010		
President's hat, The	Laurain, Antione	2013		
Price of salt, The	Highsmith, Patricia	1952		
Prisoner in his palace, The	Bardenwerper, Will	2017		
Queen of the desert: The extraordinary life of Gertrude Bell	Howell, Georgina	2006		
Queenie Malone's paradise hotel	Ruth Hogan	2019		
Questions of travel	de Kretser, Michelle	2013		
Reckoning	Szubanski, Magda	2015		
Red notice	Browder, Bill	2016		
Remains of the day, The	Ishiguro, Kazuo	1989		
Remarkable creatures	Chevalier, Tracy	2009		
Restorer, The	Sala, Michael	2017		
Rhubarb	Silvey, Craig	2004		
Rip, The	Brandi, Mark	2019		
River, The	Heller, Peter	2019		
River house, The	Cunnington, Janita	2016		
Road from Coorain, The	Conway, Jill Ker	1989		
Rosie effect, The	Simsion, Graeme	2014		
Rosie project, The	Simsion, Graeme	2013		
Round house, The	Erdrich, Louise	2012		
Ruin, The	McTiernan, Dervla	2018		
Rules of magic, The	Hoffman, Alice	2018		
Sadness is a white bird	Rothman-Zecher, Moriel	2018		
Salt path, The	Winn, Raynor	2019		

Sarah Thornhill	Grenville, Kate	2011		
Say hello	Findlay, Carly	2019		
Scrublands	Hammer, Chris	2018		
Secret chord, The	Brooks, Geraldine	2015		
Secret history, The	Tartt, Donna	1992		
Secret river, The	Grenville, Kate	2005		
Secrets she keeps, The	Robotham, Michael	2017		
Sense of an ending, The	Barnes, Julian	2011		
Shark Drunk	Stroksnes, Morten	2018		
Sheila: The Australian beauty who bewitched British society	Wainwright, Robert	2014		
Shepherd's hut, The	Winton, Tim	2018		
Signature of all things, The	Gilbert, Elizabeth	2013		
Silent inheritance, The	Dettman, Joy	2016		
Silver linings playbook, The	Quick, Matthew	2009		
Small great things	Picoult, Jodi	2016		
Songs of a war boy: My story	Adut, Deng Thiak	2016		
Spirits of the Ghan	Nunn, Judy	2015		
Spy and the traitor, The	Macintyre, Ben	2018		
S.T.A.G.S.	Bennett, M. A.	2017		
Stars are fire, The	Shreve, Anita	2017		
Stay with me	Adebayo, Ayobami	2018		
Still Alice	Genova, Lisa	2007		
Stone carvers, The	Urquhart, Jane	2001		
Stoner	Williams, John	1965		
Story of the lost child, The (Book 4)	Ferrante, Elena	2015		
Story of a new name, The (Book 2)	Ferrante, Elena	2012		
Such a long journey	Mistry, Rohinton	1991		
Summer book, The	Jansson, Tove	1974		
Summer before the war, The	Simonson, Helen	2016		
Sweet tooth	McEwan, Ian			
Sympathizer, The	Nguyen, Viet Thanh	2015		
Tattooist of Auschwitz, The	Morris, Heather	2018		
Tea girl of Hummingbird Lane, The	See, Lisa	2017		
Terra nullius	Coleman, Claire G.	2017		
Testament of youth	Brittain, Vera	2014		
Then come back	Neruda, Pablo	2016		
This house of grief: the story of a murder trial	Garner, Helen	2014		
This is how it always is	Frankel, Laurie	2017		
Those who leave and those who stay (Book 3)	Ferrante, Elena	2014		
Three women	Taddeo, Lisa	2019		
Time and time again	Elton, Ben	2014		
Tin man	Winman, Sarah	2017		
To kill a mockingbird	Lee, Harper	1960		
Too close to home	Blain, Georgia	2011		
Travelling to infinity: the true story behind *The theory of everything*	Hawking, Jane	2014		
Tree grows in Brooklyn, A	Smith, Betty	1943		
True Girt	Hunt, David	2016		

Truly, madly, guilty	Moriarty, Liane	2016		
Truth	Temple, Peter	2009		
Two Sisters	Seierstad, Åsne	2018		
Two steps forward	Simsion, Graeme & Buist, Anne	2018		
Ugly: My memoir	Hoge, Robert	2013		
Unbreakable	Dokic, Jelena & Halloran, Jessica	2017		
Uncommon reader, The	Bennett, Alan	2007		
Underground railroad, The	Whitehead, Colson	2016		
Unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry, The	Joyce, Rachel	2012		
Unsheltered	Kingsolver, Barbara	2018		
Vanessa and her sister	Parmar, Priya	2015		
Vanishing act of Esme Lennox, The	O'Farrell, Maggie	2007		
Very good lives	Rowling, J. K.	2015		
Victoria, the Queen	Baird, Julia	2016		
View of the harbour, A	Taylor, Elizabeth	2015		
Warlight	Ondaatje, Michael	2018		
We are all completely beside ourselves	Fowler, Karen Joy	2013		
We need to talk about Kevin	Shriver, Lionel	2006		
We never asked for wings	Diffenbaugh, Vanessa	2016		
When breath becomes air	Kalanithi, Paul	2017		
When the night comes	Parrett, Favel	2014		
Where'd you go Bernadette?	Semple, Maria	2013		
Where the crawdads sing	Owens, Delia	2019		
Whisper network	Baker, Chandler	2019		
White tiger, The	Adiga, Aravind	2008		
Wicked boy, The	Summerscale, Kate	2016		
Wild: A journey from lost to found on the Pacific Crest Trail	Strayed, Cheryl	2012		
Wimmera	Brandi, Mark	2017		
Witches: Salem 1692, The	Schiff, Stacy	2015		
Winter of our discontent, The	Steinbeck, John	1961		
Women in black, The	St John, Madeline	2010		
Wonder, The	Donoghue, Emma	2016		
Woolgrower's companion, The	Rhoades, Joy	2017		
Working class boy	Barnes, Jimmy	2016		
Year of wonders	Brooks, Geraldine	2002		
Yellow house, The	O'Grady, Emily	2018		
Z: A novel of Zelda Fitzgerald	Fowler, Therese	2013		

Please email us if you would like the Word version of this document to keep records for your Club.

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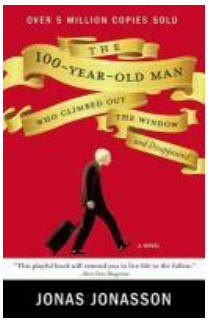
100-year-old man who climbed out the window and disappeared

Jonas Jonasson

CONTEMPORARY
384pp; Pub 2012



Confined to a nursing home and about to turn 100, Allan Karlsson, who has a larger-than-life back story as an explosives expert, climbs out of the window in his slippers and embarks on an unforgettable adventure involving thugs, a murderous elephant and a very friendly hot dog stand operator.

1984 and Animal Farm

George Orwell

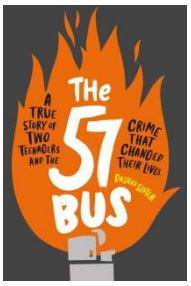
CONTEMPORARY
433pp; Orig Pub 1949 & 1945

George Orwell's novels about the dangers of tyranny, the corruption of the state and the enslavement of the individual are essential reading. In an era of doublespeak, they remain chillingly prophetic. 1984 is a political fiction and dystopian science fiction which sets in Airstrip One (formerly Great Britain), a province of the superstate Oceania in a world of perpetual war, omnipresent government surveillance, and public manipulation. Animal farm is an allegorical novel that reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and then on into the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union.

57 bus, The

Dashka Slater

TRUE CRIME
320pp; Pub 2017

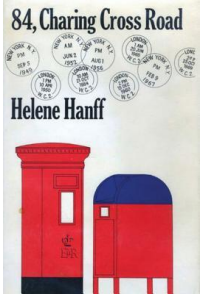


One teenager in a skirt.
One teenager with a lighter.
One moment that changes both their lives forever.

84, Charing Cross Road

Helene Hanff

NON FICTION
71pp; Pub 1970



This book is the very simple story of the love affair between Miss Helene Hanff of New York and Messrs Marks and Co, sellers of rare and secondhand books, at 84 Charing Cross Road, London. Told in a series of letters, this true story has touched the hearts of thousands.

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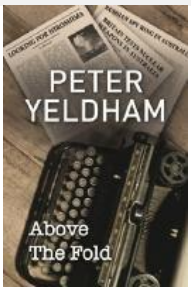
Above the fold
Peter Yeldham

HISTORICAL
AUSTRALIAN
405pp; Pub 2014



Luke Elliott and Claudia Marsden have fallen in love at a perilous time. The Second World War is raging in the Pacific, barbed wire and gun emplacements are strung along the northern beaches in preparation for invasion. As the war moves closer, their 'sextet' of loyal school friends is splintering as individual career dreams are pursued. Luke yearns to be a journalist but a start in newspapers is proving challenging. The war's end unexpectedly provides Luke's big break, but the pursuit of his dream will keep him away from Australia and Claudia, with surprising consequences for them both.

After
Nikki Gemmell

BIOGRAPHY
304pp; Pub 2017

Nikki Gemmell's world changed forever in October 2015 when the body of her elderly mother was found and it became clear she had decided to end her own life. After the immediate shock and devastation came the guilt and the horror, for Nikki, her family, relatives and friends. No note was left, so the questions that Elayn's death raised were endless. Was the decision an act of independence or the very opposite? Was it a desperate act driven by hopelessness and anger, or was her euthanasia a reasoned act of empowerment?

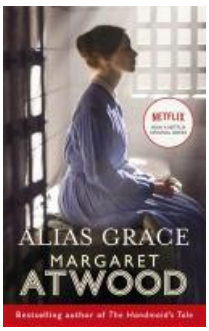
After you
Jojo Moyes

CONTEMPORARY
409pp; Pub 2015

Lou Clark has lots of questions. Like how it is she's ended up working in an airport bar, spending every shift watching other people jet off to new places. And will she ever get over the love of her life? What Lou does know for certain is that something has to change. Then, one night, it does. But does the stranger on her doorstep hold the answers Lou is searching for - or just more questions? Close the door and life continues: simple, ordered, safe. Open it and she risks everything. But Lou once made a promise to live. And if she's going to keep it, she has to invite them in. …

Alias Grace
Atwood, Margaret

HISTORICAL FICTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL
545pp; Pub 1996



Sometimes I whisper it over to myself: Murderess. Murderess. It rustles, like a taffeta skirt along the floor.' Grace Marks. Female fiend? Femme fatale? Or weak and unwilling victim? Around the true story of one of the most enigmatic and notorious women of the 1840s, Margaret Atwood has created an extraordinarily potent tale of sexuality, cruelty and mystery.

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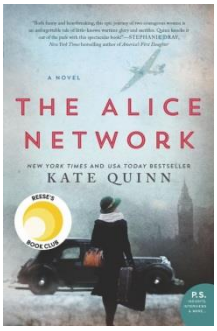
Alice network, The
Kate Quinn

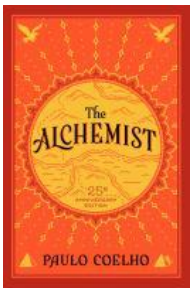
HISTORICAL FICTION
560pp; Pub 2017



In an enthralling new historical novel from national bestselling author Kate Quinn, two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

Alchemist, The
Paulo Coelho

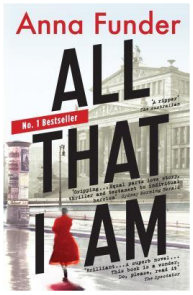
CONTEMPORARY
182pp; Orig Pub 1993



The Alchemist has become a modern classic, selling millions of copies around the world and transforming the lives of countless readers across generations. Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different--and far more satisfying--than he ever imagined.

All that I am
Anna Funder

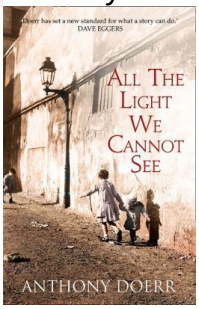
HISTORICAL FICTION
369pp; Pub 2011



Ruth Becker, defiant and cantankerous, is living out her days in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. She has made an uneasy peace with the ghosts of her past -- and a part of history that has been all but forgotten. Another lifetime away, it's 1939 and the world is going to war. Ernst Toller, self-doubting revolutionary and poet, sits in a New York hotel room settling up the account of his life. When Toller's story arrives on Ruth's doorstep their shared past slips under her defences, and she's right back among them -- those friends who predicted the brutality of the Nazis and gave everything they had to stop them.

All the light we cannot see
Anthony Doerr

HISTORICAL FICTION
531pp; Pub 2014



A novel about a blind French girl, Marie-Laure, and a German boy, Werner, whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, Doerr's gorgeous combination of soaring imagination with observation is electric.

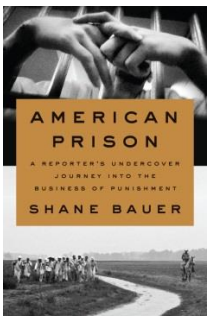
Amber amulet, The
Craig Silvey

CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
86pp; Pub 2012

Meet Liam McKenzie, a lonely twelve year old boy whose alter ego is the Masked Avenger - a superhero with powers so potent, so fast, not even he can fully comprehend their extent. Along with his sidekick, Richie the power-beagle, Liam protects the people of Franklin Street from chaos, mayhem, evil and low tyre pressure - but can he save them from sadness?

American prison
Shane Bauer

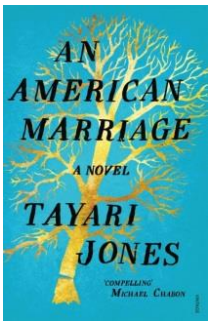
NON-FICTION
368pp; Pub 2018



In 2014, Shane Bauer was hired for $9 an hour to work as an entry-level prison guard at a private prison in Winnfield, Louisiana. An award-winning investigative journalist, he used his real name; there was no meaningful background check. Four months later, his employment came to an abrupt end. But he had seen enough, and in short order he wrote an exposé about his experiences that won a National Magazine Award and became the most-read feature in the history of the magazine Mother Jones. Still, there was much more that he needed to say.

An American marriage
Tayari Jones

CONTEMPORARY FICTION
320pp; Pub 2018

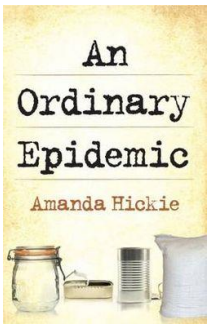


An explosive love story about a marriage interrupted.

Could you put your life on hold for twelve years? A stunning love story about family, injustice and marriage, and three people at once bound and separated by forces beyond their control.

An ordinary epidemic
Amanda Hickie

AUSTRALIAN FICTION SUSPENSE
384pp; Pub 2015



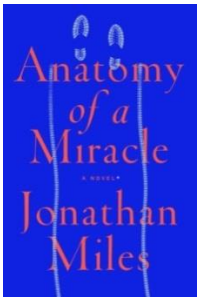
Hannah is stuck in the middle of a deadly outbreak. As Sydney goes into lockdown, she attempts to quarantine her home and protect her family from the alarming infection around them. How far will a desperate mother go to keep her loved ones safe?

northern beaches council

BOOK CLUB

Anatomy of a miracle
Johnathan Miles

LITERARY FICTION
368pp; Pub 2018

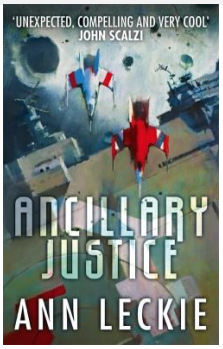


A profound new novel about a paralyzed young man's unexplainable recovery—a stunning exploration of faith, science, mystery, and the meaning of life.

Brilliantly written as closely observed journalistic reportage and filtered through a wide lens that encompasses the vibrant characters affected by Cameron's story, Anatomy of a Miracle will be read, championed, and celebrated as a powerful story of our time, and the work of a true literary master.

Ancillary justice
Ann Leckie

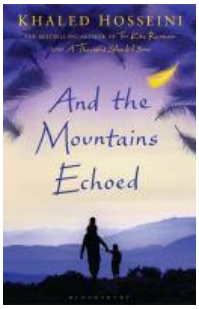
SCIENCE FICTION
409pp; Pub 2013



On a remote, icy planet, the soldier known as Breq is drawing closer to completing her quest. Breq is both more than she seems and less than she was. Years ago, she was the Justice of Toren, a colossal starship with an artificial intelligence linking thousands of corpse soldiers in the service of the Radch, the empire that conquered the galaxy. An act of treachery has ripped it all away, leaving her with only one fragile human body. And only one purpose--to revenge herself on Anaander Mianaai, many-bodied, near-immortal Lord of the Radch.

And the mountains echoed
Khaled Hosseini

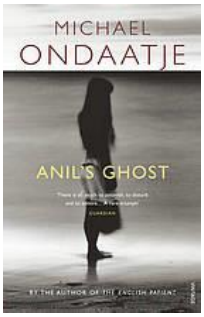
CONTEMPORARY
404pp; Pub 2013



Khaled Hosseini, the 1 New York Times-bestselling author of The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns, has written a new novel about how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations.

Anil's ghost
Michael Ondaatje

HISTORICAL FICTION
307pp; Orig Pub 2000



Anil's Ghost transports us to Sri Lanka, a country steeped in centuries of tradition, now forced into the late twentieth century by the ravages of the civil war. Into this maelstrom steps Anil Tissera, a young woman born in Sri Lanka sent by an international human rights group as a forensic anthropologist to investigate the campaigns of organised slaughter engulfing the island. What follows is a story about love, about family, about identity, about the unknown enemy, about the quest to unlock the hidden past - a story driven by a riveting mystery.

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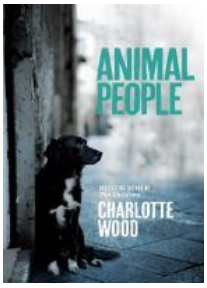
BOOK CLUB

Animal people
Charlotte Wood

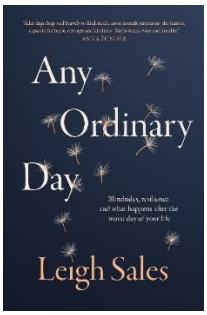
CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
264pp; Pub 2011



On a stiflingly hot December day, Stephen has decided it's time to break up with his girlfriend Fiona. He's 39, aimless and unfulfilled, he's without a clue working out how to make his life better. All he has are his instincts - and unfortunately they might just be his downfall . As he makes his way through the pitiless city and the hours of a single day, Stephen must fend off his demanding family, endure another shift of his dead-end job at the zoo (including an excruciating teambuilding event), face up to Fiona's aggressive ex-husband and the hysteria of a children's birthday party that goes terribly wrong. As an ordinary day develops into an existential crisis, Stephen begins to understand - perhaps too late - that love is not a trap, and only he can free himself.

Any ordinary day
Leigh Sales

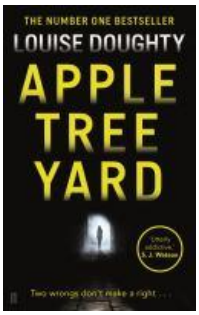
NON FICTION
264pp; Pub 2018



As a journalist, Leigh Sales often encounters people experiencing the worst moments of their lives in the full glare of the media. But one particular string of bad news stories - and a terrifying brush with her own mortality - sent her looking for answers about how vulnerable each of us is to a life-changing event.

Apple tree yard
Louise Doughty

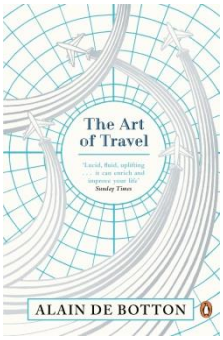
SUSPENSE / THRILLER
434pp; Pub 2014



Yvonne Carmichael has worked hard to achieve the life she always wanted: a high flying career in genetics, a beautiful home, a good relationship with her husband and their two grown up children. Then one day she meets a stranger at the Houses of Parliament and, on impulse, begins a passionate affair with him, a decision that will put everything she values at risk. At first she believes she can keep the relationship separate from the rest of her life, but she can't control what happens next. All of her careful plans spiral into greater deceit and, eventually, a life changing act of violence.

Art of travel, The
Alain de Botton

TRAVEL NON-FICTION
261pp; Pub 2002



Few activities seem to promise us as much happiness as going travelling: taking off for somewhere else, somewhere far from home, a place with more interesting weather, customs and landscapes. But although we are inundated with advice on *where* to travel to, we seldom ask *why* we go and how we might become more fulfilled by doing so.

With the help of a selection of writers, artists and thinkers - including Flaubert, Edward Hopper, Wordsworth and Van Gogh - Alain de Botton's bestselling *The Art of Travel* provides invaluable insights into everything from holiday romance to hotel mini-bars, airports to sight-seeing.

The perfect antidote to those guides that tell us what to do when we get there, *The Art of Travel* tries to explain why we really went in the first place - and helpfully suggests how we might be happier on our journeys.

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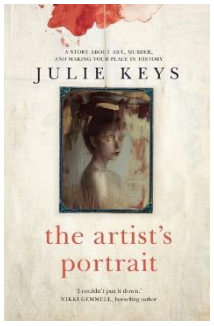
BOOK CLUB

Artist's portrait, The
Julie Keys

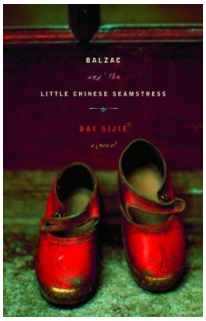
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
290pp; Pub 2019



In 1992, morning sickness drives Jane to pre-dawn walks of her neighbourhood where she meets an unfriendly woman who sprays her with a hose as she passes by. When they do talk: *Muriel Kemp eyes my pregnant belly and tells me if I really want to succeed, I'd get rid of the baby.*
Driven to find out more about her curmudgeonly neighbour, Jane Cooper begins to investigate the life of Muriel, who claims to be a famous artist from Sydney's bohemian 1920s. Contemporary critics argue that legend, rather than ability, has secured her position in history. They also claim that the *real* Muriel Kemp died in 1936.

Balzac and the little Chinese seamstress
Dai Sijie

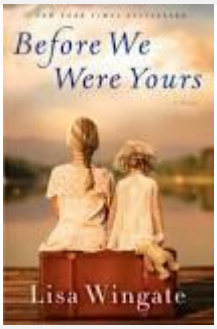
HISTORICAL FICTION
184pp; Pub 2001



At the height of Mao's infamous Cultural Revolution, two boys are among hundreds of thousands exiled to the countryside for "re-education." The narrator and his best friend, Luo, guilty of being the sons of doctors, find themselves in a remote village where, among the peasants of Phoenix mountain, they are made to cart buckets of excrement up and down precipitous winding paths. Their meagre distractions include a violin--as well as, before long, the beautiful daughter of the local tailor. But it is when the two discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation that their re-education takes its most surprising turn.

Before We Were Yours
Lisa Wingate

HISTORICAL FICTION
LITERARY FICTION
WOMEN'S FICTION
352pp; Pub 2017



Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

Becoming
Michelle Obama

BIOGRAPHY
448pp; Pub 2018

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story in her own words and on her own terms.

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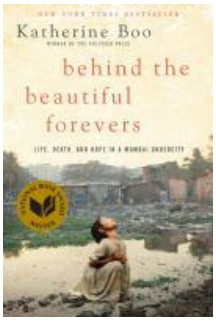
BOOK CLUB

Behind the beautiful forevers
Katherine Boo

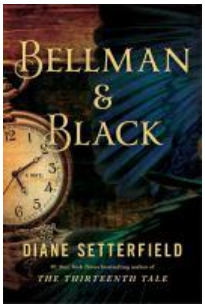
NON FICTION
256pp; Pub 2012



The dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. As India starts to prosper, the residents of Annawadi are electric with hope. Abdul sees "a fortune beyond counting" in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Meanwhile Asha has identified a shadier route to the middle class. With a little luck, her beautiful daughter might become its first female college graduate. But then Abdul is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power, and economic envy turn brutal.

Bellman & Black
Diane Setterfield

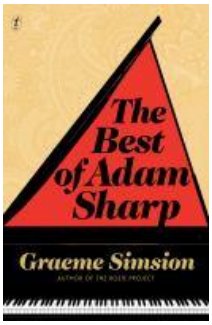
CONTEMPORARY
GHOST STORY
328pp; Pub 2013



Killing a bird with his slingshot as a boy, William Bellman grows up a wealthy family man unaware of how his act of childhood cruelty will have terrible consequences until a wrenching tragedy compels him to enter into a macabre bargain with a stranger in black.

Best of Adam Sharp, The
Graeme Simsion

CONTEMPORARY
374pp; Pub 2016



On the cusp of fifty, Adam Sharp has a loyal partner, earns a good income as an IT contractor and is the music-trivia expert at quiz nights. It is the lifestyle he wanted, but something is missing. Two decades ago, on the other side of the world, his part-time piano playing led him into a passionate relationship with Angelina Brown. She gave Adam a chance to make it something more than an affair but he did not take it. And now he cannot shake off his nostalgia for what might have been. Then, out of nowhere, Angelina gets in touch. What does she want?

Best we could do, The
Thi Bui

MEMOIR
GRAPHIC NOVEL
327pp; Pub 2017

Thi Bui's critically acclaimed and beautifully illustrated story of her family's journey from their war-torn home in Vietnam to their new lives in America. Exploring the anguish of immigration and the lasting effects that displacement has on a child and family, Bui documents the difficulties immigrants face as they build new lives for themselves. At the heart of Bui's story is a universal struggle: adjusting to life as a first-time mother. With haunting, poetic writing and breathtaking art, The Best We Could Do examines the strength of family, the importance of identity, and the meaning of home, providing inspiration to all who search for a better future while longing for a simpler past.

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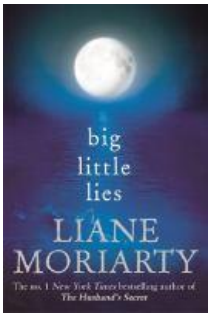
BOOK CLUB

Big little lies
Liane Moriarty

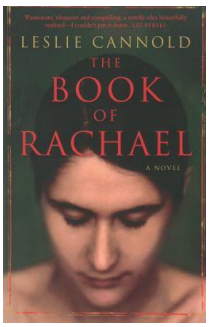
CONTEMPORARY
MYSTERY
AUSTRALIAN
472pp; Pub 2014



A murder...a tragic accident...or just parents behaving badly? What's indisputable is that someone is dead. But who did what? Big Little Lies follows three women whose children all attend kindergarten at the same school. They each at a crossroads: funny and passionate Madeline; beautiful but haunted Celeste, and young single mum Jane who has secrets of her own.

Book of Rachael, The
Leslie Cannold

HISTORICAL FICTION
328pp; Pub 2011
Australian author



Two thousand years ago, while a young Jewish preacher from Nazareth was gathering followers among the people of Galilee, his sister swept floors and dreamed of learning to read. The Book of Rachael is the story of a fiercely intelligent child consigned by her sex to a life of ignorance and drudgery. But Rachael fights her destiny, secretly learning the forbidden skills of literacy from her father Yosef and her brother. And when she falls in love with Joshua's closest friend, Judah of Iscariot, it even seems that Rachael will find happiness in her constrained world.

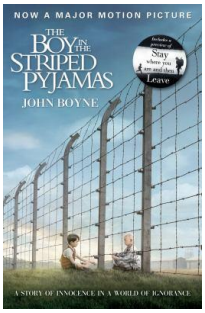
Book thief, The
Markus Zusak

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR
552pp; Pub 2005

When nine-year-old Liesel arrives outside the box-like house of her new foster parents, she refuses to get out of the car. Liesel has been separated from her parents - 'Kommunists' - for ever. In the care of the Hubermans, Liesel befriends Rudy Steiner and together they steal books - from Nazi book burning piles, from the mayor's library and from the rich people. In time, the family hide a Jewish boxer, Max, who reads with Liesel in the basement. By 1943, the Allied bombs are falling, and the sirens begin to wail. Liesel shares out her books in the airraid shelters. But one day the wail of the sirens comes too late ...

Boy in the striped pyjamas, The
John Boyne

HISTORICAL FICTION
216pp; Pub 2006



Berlin 1942. When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far far away. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose whole life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

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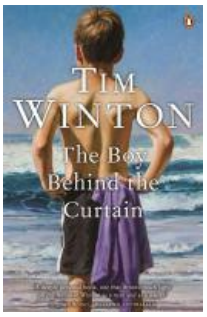
BOOK CLUB

Boy behind the curtain, The
Tim Winton

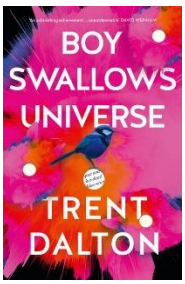
BIOGRAPHY / MEMOIR
AUSTRAIAN
296pp; Pub 2016



In this remarkable work of nonfiction, Australia's greatest novelist takes us behind the scenes, sharing the extraordinarily powerful true stories that have influenced his view of the world and fuelled his fiction. Like those of his characters, Tim Winton's life has been shaped by havoc. The Boy behind the Curtain shows the unexpected links between car crashes and religious faith, between surfing and writing, and how going to the wrong movie at the age of eight opened him up to a life of the imagination. Behind it, all, from risk-taking youth to surprise-averse middle age, has been the crazy punt of staking everything on becoming a writer.

Boy swallows universe
Trent Dalton

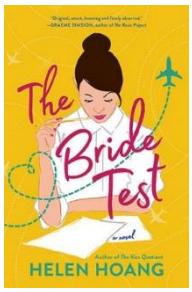
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
480pp; Pub 2018



Brisbane, 1983: A lost father, a mute brother, a mum in jail, a heroin dealer for a stepfather and a notorious crim for a babysitter. It's not as if Eli's life isn't complicated enough already. He's just trying to follow his heart, learning what it takes to be a good man, but life just keeps throwing obstacles in the way - not least of which is Tytus Broz, legendary Brisbane drug dealer.
But Eli's life is about to get a whole lot more serious. He's about to fall in love. And, oh yeah, he has to break into Boggo Road Gaol on Christmas Day, to save his mum.

Bride test, The
Helen Hoang

ROMANCE
312pp; Pub 2019



Khai Diep has no feelings. Well, he feels irritation when people move his things or contentment when ledgers balance down to the penny, but not big, important emotions - like grief. And love. He thinks he's defective.

Khai's family, however, understand that his autism means he processes emotions differently. As he steadfastly avoids relationships, his mother takes matters into her own hands and returns to Vietnam to find him the perfect bride.

Brooklyn
Colm Toibin

HISTORICAL FICTION
262pp; Orig Pub 2009

Eilis Lacey has come of age in small-town Ireland in the hard years following WWII. When an Irish priest from Brooklyn offers to sponsor Eilis in America -- to live and work in a Brooklyn neighbourhood "just like Ireland" - she decides to go, leaving her fragile mother and her charismatic sister behind. Eilis finds work in a department store on Fulton Street, and when she least expects it, finds love. Tony, who loves the Dodgers and his big Italian family, slowly wins her over with patient charm. But just as Eilis begins to fall in love with Tony, devastating news from Ireland threatens the promise of her future.

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BOOK CLUB

Burial rites
Hannah Kent

HISTORICAL FICTION
338pp; Pub 2013

Northern Iceland, 1829. A woman condemned to death for murdering her lover. A family forced to take her in. A priest tasked with absolving her. But all is not as they had assumed, and time is running out - winter is coming and with it the execution date. Only she can know the truth.

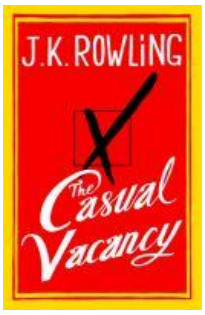
Calling me home
Julie Kibler

CONTEMPORARY
325pp; Pub 2013

Eighty-nine-year-old Isabelle McAllister has a favour to ask her hairdresser Dorrie Curtis: drop everything and drive from Arlington, Texas, to a funeral in Cincinnati. Tomorrow. Dorrie, fleeing problems of her own, agrees. It's a journey that changes both their lives, as she learns Isabelle's tale of a forbidden relationship and its tragic consequences-- a tale that just might help Dorrie find her own way.

Casual vacancy, The
J K Rowling

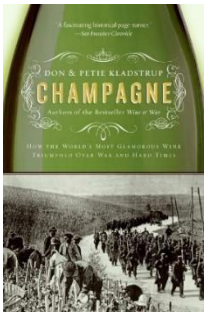
CONTEMPORARY
503pp; Pub 2012



When Barry Fairbrother dies in his early forties, the town of Pagford is left in shock. Pagford is, seemingly, an English idyll, with a cobbled market square and an ancient abbey, but what lies behind the pretty facade is a town at war. Rich at war with poor, teenagers at war with their parents, wives at war with their husbands …. And the empty seat left by Barry on the town's council soon becomes the catalyst for the biggest war the town has yet seen. Who will triumph in an election fraught with passion, duplicity and unexpected revelations?

Champagne
Don & Petie Kladstrup

NON FICTION
320pp; Pub 2006



Throughout history, waves of invaders have coveted the northeast corner of France: Attila the Hun in the fifth century, the English in the Hundred Years War, the Prussians in the nineteenth century. Yet this region – which historians say has suffered more battles and wars than any other place on earth – is also the birthplace of one thing the entire world equates with good times, friendship and celebration: champagne.
Champagne is the story of the world's favourite wine. It tells how a sparkling beverage that became the toast of society during the Belle Epoque emerged after World War I as a global icon of fine taste and good living. The book celebrates the gutsy, larger–than–life characters whose proud determination nurtured and preserved the land and its grapes throughout centuries of conflict.

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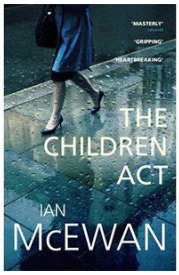
BOOK CLUB

Children Act, The
Ian McEwan

CONTEMPORARY
240pp; Pub 2014



Fiona Maye is a leading High Court judge. She is renowned for her fierce intelligence, exactitude and sensitivity. But her professional success belies private sorrow and domestic strife. Now she is called on to try an urgent case: for religious reasons, a beautiful seventeen-year-old boy, Adam, is refusing the medical treatment that could save his life. Time is running out. Should the secular court overrule sincerely held faith? In the course of reaching a decision, Fiona visits Adam in hospital - an encounter which stirs long-buried feelings in her and powerful new emotions in the boy. Her judgment has momentous consequences for them both.

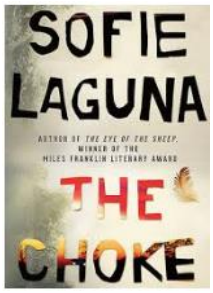
Chocolate tin, The
Fiona McIntosh

HISTORICAL FICTION
419pp; Pub 2016

Alexandra Frobisher has received several proposals of marriage. Matthew Britten-Jones is a man of charm and strong social standing. He impresses Alex and her parents with his wit and intelligence, but would an amicable union be enough for a fulfilling life together? At the end of the war, Captain Harry Blakeney discovers a dead soldier in a trench in France. In the man's possession is a secret love note, tucked inside a tin of chocolate that had been sent to the soldiers as a gift from the people back home. In pursuit of the author of this mysterious message, Harry travels to Rowntree's chocolate factory in England's north, where his life becomes inextricably bound with Alexandra and Matthew's. .

Choke, The
Sofie Laguna

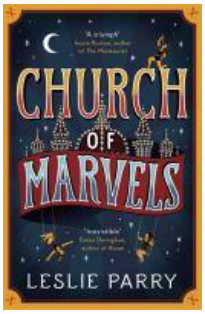
CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR
369pp; Pub 2017



'I never had words to ask anybody the questions, so I never had the answers.' Abandoned by her mother as a toddler and only occasionally visited by her volatile father who keeps dangerous secrets, Justine is raised solely by her Pop, an old man tormented by visions of the Burma Railway. Justine finds sanctuary in Pop's chooks and The Choke, where the banks of the Murray River are so narrow they can almost touch.

Church of marvels, The
Leslie Parry

HISTORICAL FICTION
308pp; Pub 2015



It is late on a warm city night when Sylvan Threadgill, a young night soiler who cleans out the privies behind the tenement houses, pulls a terrible secret out from the filthy hollows: an abandoned newborn baby. An orphan himself, Sylvan was raised by a kindly Italian family and can't bring himself to leave the baby in the slop. He tucks her into his chest, resolving to find out where she belongs.

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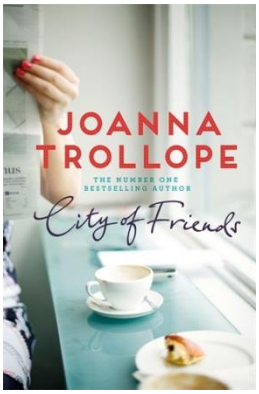
BOOK CLUB

City of friends
Joanna Trollope

CONTEMPORARY
336pp; Pub 2017

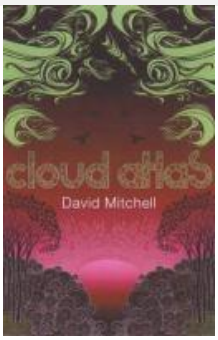


The story of four ambitious, well-to-do women in their forties confronting various life changes. For Stacey, it's being sacked from the job she's held for 16 years. For single mother Melissa, it's the new curiosity of her teenage son about his absent father. Beth's younger lesbian lover has left her, and Gaby is flung into an awkward professional predicament. Trollope's stylish but understated storytelling unrolls all these stories with empathy and energy, revealing a serious underlying preoccupation with the difficulties for women of combining family and career.

From The Sydney Morning Herald

Cloud atlas
David Mitchell

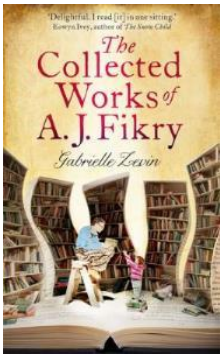
SCIENCE FICTION
HISTORICAL FICTION
483pp; Pub 2004



Cloud Atlas begins in 1850 with Adam Ewing, an American voyaging from the Chatham Isles to his home in California. Abruptly, the action jumps to Belgium in 1931, where Robert Frobisher, a disinherited bisexual composer, contrives his way into the household of an infirm maestro who has a beguiling wife and a nubile daughter... From there we jump to the West Coast in the 1970s and a troubled reporter who stumbles upon a web of corporate greed and murder ... And onward to an inglorious present-day England; to a Korean superstate of the near future where neocapitalism has run amok; and, finally, to a postapocalyptic Iron Age Hawaii in the last days of history.

Collected works of A J Fikry
Gabrielle Zevin

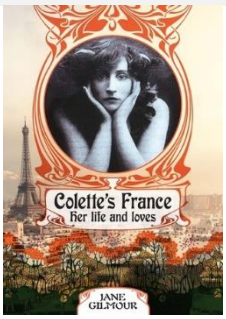
CONTEMPORARY
243pp; Pub 2014



AJ Fikry owns a failing bookshop. His wife has just died, in tragic circumstances. His rare and valuable first edition has been stolen. His life is a wreck. Amelia is a book rep, with a big heart, and a lonely life Maya is the baby who ends up on AJ's bookshop floor with a note. What happens in the bookshop that changes the lives of these seemingly normal but extraordinary characters? This is the story of how unexpected love can rescue you and bring you back to real life, in a world that you won't want to leave, with characters that you will come to love.

Colette's France
Jane Gilmour

BIOGRAPHY
216pp; Pub 2017



French author Colette has a special place in French literary history, her life and writing novels Cheri, Gigli and the Claudine series spanned the renowned artistic period of Belle Epoque Paris, the art scene in the South of France and war time Paris. Her companions were all the great French writer, artists, actors and intellectuals and her life is told against a backdrop and atmosphere of great creativity and style, liberation and rebellion.

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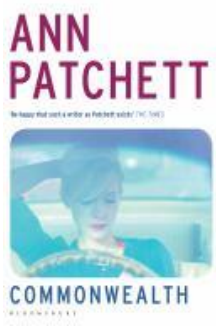
BOOK CLUB

Commonwealth
Ann Patchett

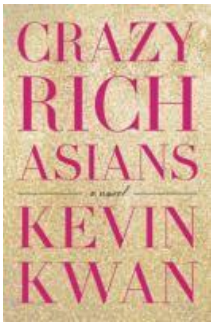
CONTEMPORARY
322pp; Pub 2016



This is a powerful story of two families brought together by beauty and torn apart by tragedy. It is 1964: Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited and notices a heart-stoppingly beautiful woman. When he kisses Beverly Keating, his host's wife, he sets in motion the joining of two families whose shared fate will be defined on a day seven years later. In 1988, Franny Keating, now twenty-four, is working as a cocktail waitress in Chicago. When she meets the famous author Leon Posen one night at the bar, and tells him about her family, she unwittingly relinquishes control over their story.

Crazy rich Asians
Kevin Kwan

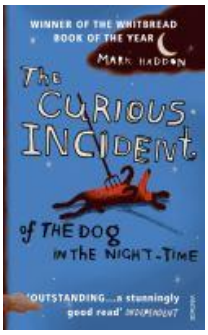
CONTEMPORARY
403pp; Pub 2013



Envisioning a summer vacation in the humble Singapore home of a boy she hopes to marry, Chinese American Rachel Chu is unexpectedly introduced to a rich and scheming clan that strongly opposes their son's relationship with an American girl.

Curious incident of the dog in the night time
Mark Haddon

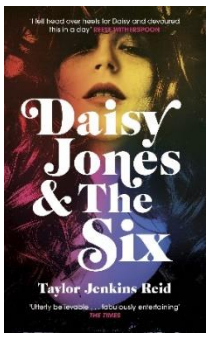
CONTEMPORARY
MYSTERY
224pp; Pub 2004



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

Daisy Jones and The Six
Taylor Jenkins Reid

CONTEMPORARY FICTION
355pp; Pub 2019



Daisy is a girl coming of age in L.A. in the late sixties, sneaking into clubs on the Sunset Strip, sleeping with rock stars, and dreaming of singing at the Whisky a Go-Go. The sex and drugs are thrilling, but it's the rock and roll she loves most. By the time she's twenty, her voice is getting noticed, and she has the kind of heedless beauty that makes people do crazy things. Another band getting noticed is The Six, led by the brooding Billy Dunne. On the eve of their first tour, his girlfriend Camila finds out she's pregnant, and with the pressure of impending fatherhood and fame, Billy goes a little wild on the road. Daisy and Billy cross paths when a producer realizes the key to supercharged success is to put the two together. What happens next will become the stuff of legend. The making of that legend is chronicled in this riveting and unforgettable novel, written as an oral history of one of the biggest bands of the seventies.

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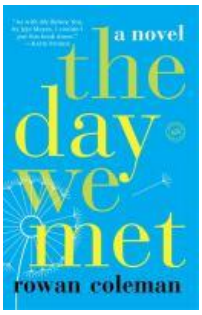
BOOK CLUB

Day we met, The
Rowan Coleman

CONTEMPORARY
334pp; Pub 2015



When Claire starts to write her Memory Book, she already knows that this scrapbook of mementoes will soon be all her daughters and husband have of her. In her mid-40s, Claire is scared and increasingly confused by the world around her, struggling to hold onto her identity as thoughts of her family grow fuzzier every day. Fearing what will happen if those memories fade altogether, her family's gift of a red sketchpad is her most treasured possession. As they fill it with scenes from a joyous life lived together, Claire again experiences the ecstatic highs and terrible lows of a life well lived: full of heartbreak and love, tears and laughter.

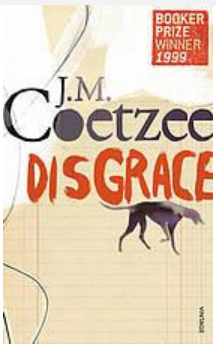
Defending Jacob
William Landay

SUSPENSE / THRILLER
505pp; Pub 2013

Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney in his suburban Massachusetts county for more than twenty years. When a shocking crime shatters their New England town, Andy is blindsided by what happens next: his fourteen-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student. As the crisis reveals how little a father knows about his son, Andy will face a trial of his own-- between loyalty and justice, between truth and allegation, between a past he's tried to bury and a future he cannot conceive.

Disgrace
J M Coetzee

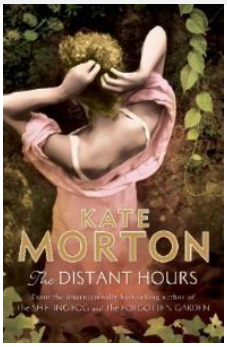
CONTEMPORARY
219pp; Orig Pub 1999



After years teaching Romantic poetry at the Technical University of Cape Town, David Lurie, middle-aged and twice divorced, has an impulsive affair with a student. The affair sours; he is denounced and summoned before a committee of inquiry. Willing to admit his guilt, but refusing to yield to pressure to repent publicly, he resigns.

Distant hours, The
Kate Morton

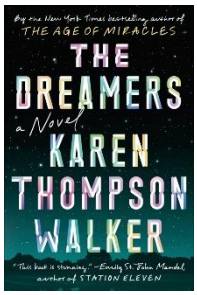
HISTORICAL FICTION
MYSTERY
603pp; Pub 2010



A long lost letter arrives in the post and Edie Burchill finds herself on a journey to Milderhurst Castle, a great but mouldering old house, where the Blythe spinsters live and where her mother was billeted 50 years before as a 13 year old child during WWII. The elder Blythe sisters are twins and have spent most of their lives looking after the third and youngest sister, Juniper, who hasn't been the same since her fiance jilted her in 1941. Inside the decaying castle, Edie begins to unravel her mother's past.

Dreamers, The
Karen Thompson Walker

LITERARY FICTION
303pp; Pub 2019



One night in an isolated college town in the hills of Southern California, a first-year student stumbles into her dorm room, falls asleep—and doesn't wake up. She sleeps through the morning, into the evening. Her roommate, Mei, cannot rouse her. Neither can the paramedics, nor the perplexed doctors at the hospital. When a second girl falls asleep, and then a third, Mei finds herself thrust together with an eccentric classmate as panic takes hold of the college and spreads to the town.

Dressmaker, The
Rosalie Ham

CONTEMPORARY
295pp; Pub 2015

Tilly Dunnage has come home to care for her mad old mother. She left the small Victorian town of Dungatar years before, and became an accomplished couturier in Paris. Now she earns her living making exquisite frocks for the people who drove her away when she was ten. Through the long Dungatar nights, she sits at her sewing machine, planning revenge.

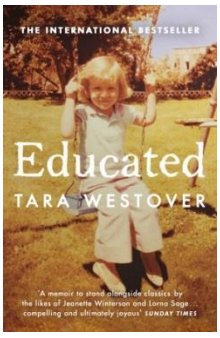
Dry, The
Jane Harper

MYSTERY
THRILLER / SUSPENSE
AUSTRALIAN
342pp; Pub 2016

Who really killed the Hadler family? Luke Hadler turns a gun on his wife and child, then himself. The farming community of Kiewarra is facing life and death choices daily. If one of their own broke under the strain, well then Federal Police investigator Aaron Falk returns to Kiewarra for the funerals, he is loath to confront the people who rejected him twenty years earlier. But when his investigative skills are called on, the facts of the Hadler case start to make him doubt this murder-suicide charge.

Educated
Tara Westover

BIOGRAPHY
400pp; Pub 2018



Tara Westover and her family grew up preparing for the End of Days but, according to the government, she didn't exist. She hadn't been registered for a birth certificate. She had no school records because she'd never set foot in a classroom, and no medical records because her father didn't believe in hospitals.

As she grew older, her father became more radical and her brother more violent. At sixteen, Tara knew she had to leave home. In doing so she discovered both the transformative power of education, and the price she had to pay for it.

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BOOK CLUB

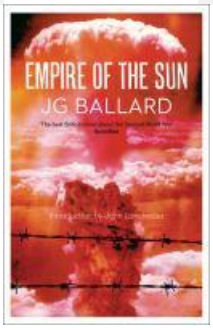
Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine
Gail Honeyman

CONTEMPORARY
386pp; Pub 2017

Eleanor Oliphant has learned how to survive, but not how to live Eleanor Oliphant leads a simple life. She wears the same clothes to work every day, eats the same meal deal for lunch every day and buys the same two bottles of vodka to drink every weekend. Eleanor Oliphant is happy. Nothing is missing from her carefully timetabled life. Except, sometimes, everything. One simple act of kindness is about to shatter the walls Eleanor has built around herself. Now she must learn how to navigate the world that everyone else seems to take for granted, while searching for the courage to face the dark corners she's avoided all her life.

Empire of the sun
Peter Stewart

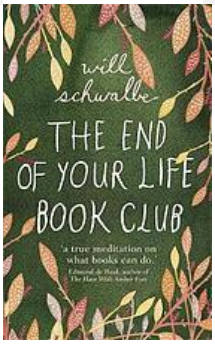
HISTORICAL FICTION
351pp; Pub 1984



Based on JG Ballard's own childhood, Empire of the Sun is the extraordinary account of a boy's life in Japanese occupied wartime Shanghai a mesmerizing and hypnotically compelling novel of war, of starvation and survival, of internment camps and death marches, which blends searing honesty with an almost hallucinatory vision of a world thrown utterly out of joint.

End of your life book club, The
Will Schwalbe

MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
336pp; Pub 2012



Mary Anne Schwalbe was an educator who worked at Harvard University before devoting herself to the cause of refugees, as founding director of an organisation that brought her to the world's most desperate places. But her story here begins at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where, accompanied by her publisher son, she is waiting for chemotherapy treatments to begin. As they've always done, they talk about what they're reading, and the conversation grows into tradition: soon they are reading the same books in order to talk about them as Mary Anne is given her treatments.

Enduring love
Ian McEwan

CONTEMPORARY
PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION
245pp; Orig Pub 1997

One windy spring day in the Chilterns Joe Rose's calm, organized life is shattered by a ballooning accident. The afternoon, Rose reflects, could have ended in mere tragedy, but for his brief meeting with Jed Parry. Unknown to Rose, something passes between them -- something that gives birth in Parry to an obsession so powerful that it will test to the limits Rose's beloved scientific rationalism, threaten the love of his wife Clarissa and drive him to the brink of murder and madness.

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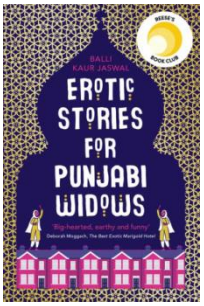
BOOK CLUB

Erotic stories for Punjabi widows
Balli Kaur Jaswal

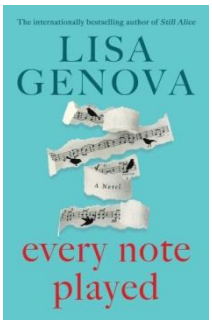
CONTEMPORARY
304pp; Pub 2017



A lively, sexy, and thought-provoking East-meets-West story about community, friendship, and women's lives at all ages—a spicy and alluring mix of *Together Tea* and *Calendar Girls.*

Every note played
Lisa Genova

FICTION
CARERS
320; Pub 2018



A once accomplished concert pianist, Richard now has ALS. As he becomes increasingly paralysed and is no longer able to live on his own, Karina becomes his reluctant caretaker. As Richard's muscles, voice, and breath fade, both he and Karina try to reconcile their past before it's too late. This is a masterful exploration of redemption and what it means to find peace inside of forgiveness.

Everyone brave is forgiven
Chris Cleave

HISTORICAL FICTION
428pp; Pub 2016

When war is declared, Mary North leaves finishing school unfinished, goes straight to the War Office, and signs up. Tom Shaw decides to give it a miss - until his flatmate Alistair unexpectedly enlists, and the conflict can no longer be avoided. Young, bright and brave, Mary is certain she'd be a marvellous spy. When she is - bewilderingly - made a teacher, she instead finds herself defying prejudice to protect the children her country would rather forget. Tom, meanwhile, finds that he will do anything for Mary. And when Mary and Alistair meet, it is love, as well as war, that will test them in ways they could not have imagined.

Everything I never told you
Celeste Ng

CONTEMPORARY
SUSPENSE
297pp; Pub 2014

Lydia is the favourite child of Marilyn and James Lee; a girl who inherited her mother's bright blue eyes and her father's jet-black hair. Her parents are determined that Lydia will fulfil their dreams. But Lydia is under pressures that have nothing to do with growing up in 1970s small town Ohio. Her father is an American born of first-generation Chinese immigrants, and his ethnicity, and hers, make them conspicuous in any setting. When Lydia's body is found in the local lake, it's the youngest in the family - Hannah - who observes far more than anyone realises and who may be the only one who knows what really happened.

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BOOK CLUB

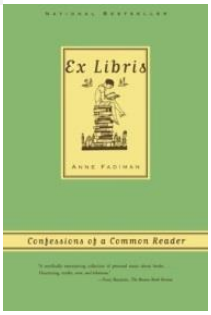
Everywhere I look
Helen Garner

MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
AUSTRALIAN
229pp; Pub 2016

Helen Garner is one of Australia's greatest writers. Her short non-fiction has enormous range. Spanning fifteen years of work, Everywhere I Look is a book full of unexpected moments, sudden shafts of light, piercing intuition, flashes of anger and incidental humour. It takes us from backstage at the ballet to the trial of a woman for the murder of her newborn baby. It moves effortlessly from the significance of moving house to the pleasure of re-reading Pride and Prejudice.

Ex-libris: Confessions of a common reader
Anne Fadiman

NON FICTION
162pp; Pub 2012



This witty collection of essays recounts a lifelong love affair with books and language. For Fadiman, as for many passionate readers, the books she loves have become chapters in her own life story. Writing with remarkable grace, she revives the tradition of the well-crafted personal essay, moving easily from anecdotes about Coleridge and Orwell to tales of her own pathologically literary family.

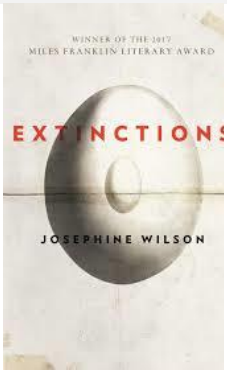
Exit west
Mohsin Hamid

CONTEMPORARY
231pp; Pub 2017

In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet: sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair, thrust into premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors - doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As violence and the threat of violence escalate, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through.

Extinctions
Josephine Wilson

AUSTRALIAN FICTION
Miles Franklin Winner 2017
281pp; Pub 2016



Professor Frederick Lothian, retired engineer, world expert on concrete and connoisseur of modernist design, has quarantined himself from life by moving to a retirement village. Surrounded and obstructed by the debris of his life - objects he has collected over many years and tells himself he is keeping for his daughter - he is determined to be miserable, but is tired of his existence and of the life he has chosen. When a series of unfortunate incidents forces him and his neighbour, Jan, together, he begins to realise the damage done by the accumulation of a lifetime's secrets and lies, and to comprehend his own shortcomings.

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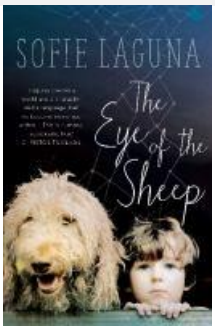
BOOK CLUB

Eye of the sheep
Sofie Laguna

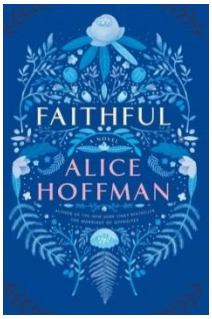
CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR
311pp; Pub 2014



Meet Jimmy Flick. He's not like other kids - he's both too fast and too slow. He sees too much, and too little. Jimmy's mother Paula is the only one who can manage him. She teaches him how to count sheep so that he can fall asleep. She holds him tight enough to stop his cells spinning. It is only Paula who can keep Jimmy out of his father's way. But when Jimmy's world falls apart, he has to navigate the unfathomable world on his own, and make things right.

Faithful
Alice Hoffman

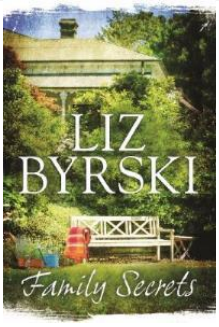
CONTEMPORARY
258pp; Pub 2016



Growing up on Long Island, Shelby Richmond is an ordinary girl until one night an extraordinary tragedy changes her fate. Her best friend’s future is destroyed in an accident, while Shelby walks away with the burden of guilt.

Family secrets
Liz Byrski

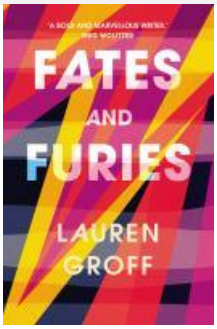
CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN
416pp; Pub 2014



When patriarch Gerald Hawkins passes away in his Tasmanian home, after ten years of serious illness, his family experience a wave of grief and, admittedly, a surge of relief. Gerald's dominating personality has loomed large over his wife, Connie, their children. As the family adjusts to life after Gerald, they could not be more splintered. But there are surprises in store and secrets to unravel.

Fates and furies
Lauren Groff

CONTEMPORARY
389pp; Pub 2015



At age twenty-two, Lotto and Mathilde are tall, glamorous, madly in love, and destined for greatness. A decade later, their marriage is still the envy of their friends, but with an electric thrill we understand that things are even more complicated and remarkable than they have seemed. With stunning revelations and multiple threads, and in prose that is vibrantly alive and original, Groff delivers a deeply satisfying novel about love, art, creativity, and power that is unlike anything that has come before it.

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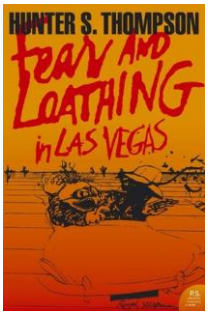
BOOK CLUB

Fear and loathing in Las Vegas
Hunter S. Thompson

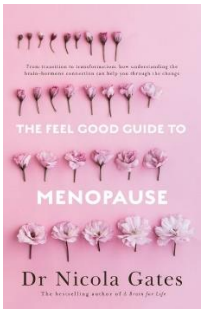
CULT CLASSIC
GONZO JOURNALISM
204pp; Pub 1972



This cult classic of gonzo journalism is the best chronicle of drug-soaked, addle-brained, rollicking good times ever committed to the printed page. It is also the tale of a long weekend road trip that has gone down in the annals of American pop culture as one of the strangest journeys ever undertaken.

Feel good guide to menopause, The
Dr Nicola Gates

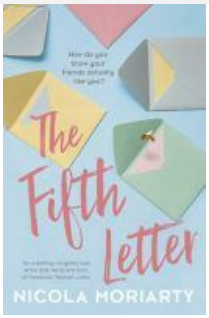
NON FICTION
304pp; Pub 2019



How understanding the brain-hormone connection can help women to navigate menopause. Hormonal changes at this time affect not only the female body but also the brain and mind. Menopause can impact a woman's health, relationships, daily functioning, career, mood and emotions, and can profoundly impair her quality of life. Understanding the connection between hormones, brains and, indeed, the gut provides us with the fundamentals for transitioning through what can be a challenging - if not overwhelming - time for many women. By breaking the silence that surrounds this change, The Feel Good Guide to Menopause aims to reduce the potential for negative impact, build understanding, compassion and reassurance, and significantly improve the mental and physical wellbeing of women.

Fifth letter, The
Nicola Moriarty

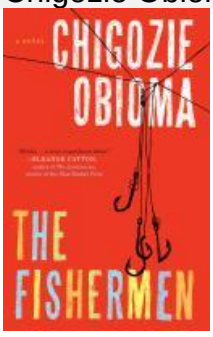
CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN
327pp; Pub 2017



A lifelong friendship shared among four women is shattered when a wine-filled vacation game involving the confessions of dark secrets gives way to an anonymous rant about deeply held resentments.

Fishermen, The
Chigozie Obioma

CONTEMPORARY
297pp; Pub 2015



Told from the point of view of nine-year-old Benjamin, the youngest of four brothers, The Fishermen is the Cain and Abel-esque story of an unforgettable childhood in 1990s Nigeria. When their father has to travel to a distant city for work, the brothers take advantage of his extended absence to skip school and go fishing. At the forbidden nearby river, they encounter a madman who predicts that one of the brothers will kill another. What happens next is an almost mythic event whose impact--both tragic and redemptive--will transcend the lives and imaginations of The Fishermen's characters and its readers.

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BOOK CLUB

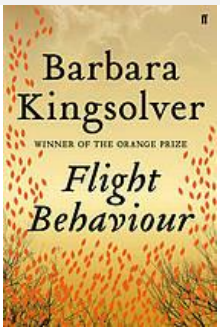
Flesh wounds
Richard Glover

MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
AUSTRALIAN
285pp; Pub 2015

A mother who invented her past, a father who was often absent, a son who wondered if this could really be his family. Richard Glover's favourite dinner-party game is called 'Who's Got the Weirdest Parents?' It's a game he always wins.

Flight behaviour
Barbara Kingsolver

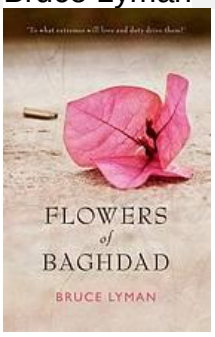
CONTEMPORARY
SUSPENSE
436pp; Pub 2012



Dellarobia is a restless farm wife who gave up her own plans when she became pregnant at seventeen. Now, after a decade of domestic disharmony on a failing farm, she has settled for permanent disappointment but seeks momentary escape through an obsessive flirtation with a younger man. As she hikes up a mountain road behind her house to a secret tryst, but instead encounters a shocking sight: a silent, forested valley filled with what looks like a lake of fire. She can only understand it as a cautionary miracle, but it sparks a raft of other explanations from scientists, religious leaders and the media.

Flowers of Baghdad
Bruce Lyman

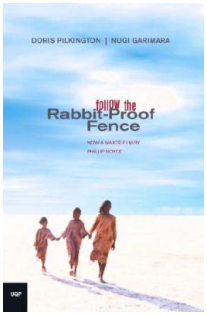
CONTEMPORARY
288pp; Pub 2012



Fear and danger are always present in Baghdad. Two very different men, Malik and Aadil, strangers to each other, know this only too well. All they want for their families is a normal and safe existence, free from the terror and desperation of bombs, gunfire and homelessness. How each of them is compelled to find the humanity and beauty in a world torn apart forms the riveting basis of this tale of intrigue, suspense, friendship and hope. Flowers of Baghdad is a breathtaking and heartwrenching novel in the tradition of The Kite Runner, and a story that brings the lives of ordinary people in strife-torn Baghdad luminously into focus.

Follow the rabbit-proof fence
Doris Pilkington

NON FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
133pp; Orig Pub 1996



Based on this true account of Doris Pilkington's mother Molly, who as a young girl led her two sisters on an extraordinary 1,600 kilometre walk home. Under Western Australia's invidious removal policy of the 1930s, the girls were taken from their Aboriginal families at Jigalong on the edge of the Little Sandy Desert, and transported halfway across the state to the Native Settlement at Moore River, north of Perth.

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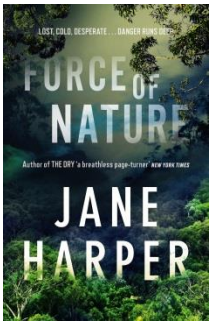
BOOK CLUB

Force of nature
Jane Harper

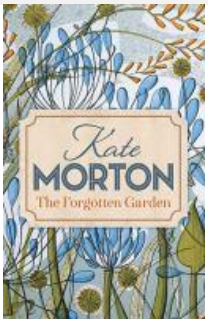
CRIME & MYSTERY
400pp; Pub 2017



Five women reluctantly pick up their backpacks and start walking along the muddy track. Only four come out the other side.

Forgotten garden, The
Kate Morton

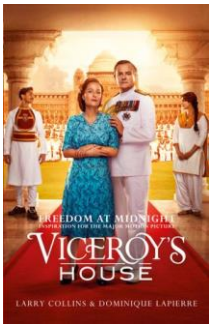
HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
552pp; Pub 2016



A lost child. On the eve of the first world war, a little girl is found abandoned on a ship to Australia. A mysterious woman called the Authoress had promised to look after her but the Authoress has disappeared without a trace. A terrible secret. On the night of her twenty-first birthday, Nell O'Connor learns a secret that will change her life forever. Decades later, she embarks upon a search for the truth that leads her to the windswept Cornish coast and the strange and beautiful Blackhurst Manor, once owned by the aristocratic Mountrachet family.

Freedom at midnight
Larry Collins & Dominique Lapierre

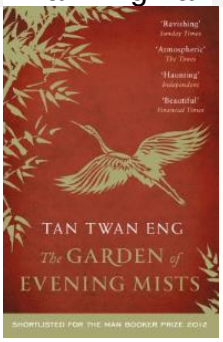
NON FICTION
HISTORY
656pp; Pub 2017



Seventy years ago, at midnight on 14 August 1947, the Union Jack began its final journey down the flagstaff of Viceroy's House, New Delhi. A fifth of humanity claimed their independence from the greatest empire history has ever seen – but the price of freedom was high, as a nation erupted into riots and bloodshed, partition and war.
This is an electrifying and acclaimed account of the dying days of the British Raj and the drama played out between Lord Mountbatten, Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru and Jinnah, as an empire undertook a violent transformation into the new India and Pakistan

Garden of evening mists, The
Twan Eng Tan

HISTORICAL FICTION
335pp; Pub 2012



Malaya, 1951. Yun Ling Teoh, the scarred lone survivor of a brutal Japanese wartime camp, seeks solace among the jungle-fringed tea plantations of Cameron Highlands. There she discovers Yugiri, the only Japanese garden in Malaya, and its owner and creator, the enigmatic Aritomo, exiled former gardener of the emperor of Japan. Despite her hatred of the Japanese, Yun Ling seeks to engage Aritomo to create a garden in memory of her sister, who died in the camp. Aritomo refuses but agrees to accept Yun Ling as his apprentice "until the monsoon comes." Then she can design a garden for herself.

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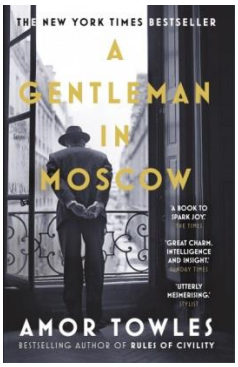
BOOK CLUB

Gentleman in Moscow, A
Amor Towles

LITERARY FICTION
HISTORICAL FICTION
480pp; Pub 2016



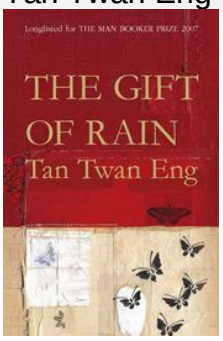
On 21 June 1922, Count Alexander Rostov – recipient of the Order of Saint Andrew, member of the Jockey Club, Master of the Hunt – is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and through the elegant revolving doors of the Hotel Metropol.

Deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the Count has been sentenced to house arrest indefinitely. But instead of his usual suite, he must now live in an attic room while Russia undergoes decades of tumultuous upheaval.

Can a life without luxury be the richest of all?

Gift of rain, The
Tan Twan Eng

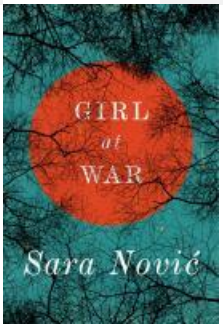
HISTORICAL FICTION
447pp; Pub 2007



Set in Penang, 1939, this book presents a story of betrayal, barbaric cruelty, steadfast courage and enduring love. Tan Twan Eng's debut novel casts a powerful spell. Set during the tumult of World War II, on the lush Malayan island of Penang, The Gift of Rain tells a riveting and poignant tale about a young man caught in the tangle of wartime loyalties and deceits.

Girl at war
Sara Novic

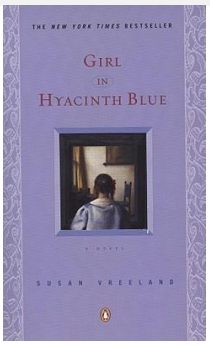
HISTORICAL FICTION
320pp; Pub 2015



Growing up in Zagreb in the summer of 1991, 10-year-old Ana Juric is a carefree tomboy; she runs the streets with her best friend, Luka, helps take care of her baby sister, Rahela, and idolizes her father. But when civil war breaks out across Yugoslavia, football games and school lessons are supplanted by sniper fire and air raid drills. The brutal ethnic cleansing of Croats and Bosnians tragically changes Ana's life, and she is lost to a world of genocide and child soldiers; a daring escape plan to America becomes her only chance for survival.

Girl in hyacinth blue
Susan Vreeland

HISTORICAL FICTION
242pp; Pub 2000



A professor invites a colleague from the art department to his home to view a painting he has kept secret for decades in Susan Vreeland's powerful historical novel, *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*. The professor swears it's a Vermeer -- but why exactly has he kept it hidden so long? The reasons unfold in a gripping sequence of stories that trace ownership of the work back to Amsterdam during World War II and still further to the moment of the painting's inception.

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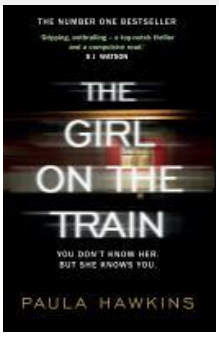
BOOK CLUB

Girl on the train, The
Paula Hawkins

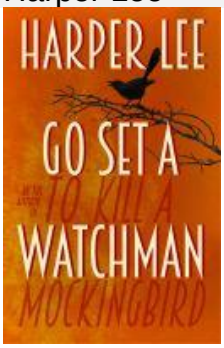
MYSTERY
THRILLER / SUSPENSE
316pp; Pub 2015



Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them ... Their life--as she sees it--is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel offers what she knows to the police, and becomes inextricably entwined in what happens next, as well as in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good?

Go set a watchman
Harper Lee

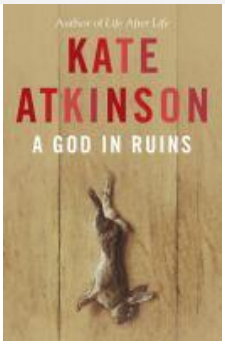
CLASSIC
278pp; Pub 2015



This book is an historic literary event: the publication of a newly discovered novel, the earliest known work from Harper Lee, the beloved, bestselling author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning classic, To Kill a Mockingbird. Originally written in the mid-1950s, Go Set a Watchman was the novel Harper Lee first submitted to her publishers before To Kill a Mockingbird. Assumed to have been lost, the manuscript was discovered in late 2014. Go Set a Watchman features many of the characters from To Kill a Mockingbird some twenty years later.

God in ruins, A
Kate Atkinson

CONTEMPORARY
394pp; Pub 2015



Atkinson's *Life after life* explored the possibility of infinite chances, as Ursula Todd lived through the turbulent events of the last century again and again. In *A god in ruins*, Atkinson turns her focus on Ursula's beloved younger brother Teddy - would-be poet, RAF bomber pilot, husband and father - as he navigates the perils and progress of the 20th century. For all Teddy endures in battle, his greatest challenge will be to face living in a future he never expected to have.

Golden age, The
Joan London

CONTEMPORARY
242pp; Pub 2014

It is 1954 and thirteen-year-old Frank Gold, refugee from wartime Hungary, is learning to walk again after contracting polio in Australia. At the Golden Age Children's Polio Convalescent Hospital in Perth, he sees Elsa, a fellow-patient, and they form a forbidden, passionate bond. The Golden Age becomes the little world that reflects the larger one, where everything occurs, love and desire, music, death, and poetry. Where children must learn that they are alone, even within their families.

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BOOK CLUB

Golden boys
Sonya Hartnett

CONTEMPORARY
238pp; Pub 2014

With their father, there is always a catch. Colt Jenson and his younger brother Bastian have moved to a new, working-class suburb. The Jensons are different. Their father, Rex, showers them with gifts, toys, bikes, all that glitters most and makes them the envy of the neighbourhood. To Freya Kiley and the other local kids, the Jensons are a family from a magazine, and Rex a hero, successful, attentive, attractive, always there to lend a hand. But to Colt he is an impossible figure in a different way: unbearable, suffocating. Has Colt got Rex wrong, or has he seen something in his father that will destroy their fragile new lives?

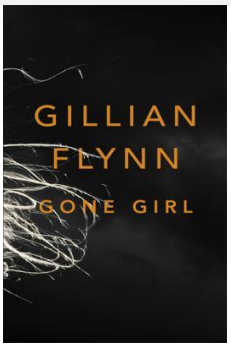
Golden child, The
Wendy James

CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN
338pp; Pub 2017

Blogger Lizzy's life is buzzing, happy, normal. Two gorgeous children, a handsome husband, destiny under control. For her real-life alter-ego Beth, things are unravelling. Tensions are simmering with her husband, mother-in-law and even her own mother. Then a classmate of one of her daughters is callously bullied and the finger of blame is pointed at Beth's clever, beautiful child. Shattered, shamed and frightened, two families must negotiate worlds of cruelty they are totally ill-equipped for.

Gone girl
Gillian Flynn

MYSTERY
SUSPENSE / THRILLER
475pp; Pub 2012



Who are you? What have we done to each other? These are the questions Nick Dunne finds himself asking on the morning of his fifth wedding anniversary, when his wife Amy suddenly disappears. The police suspect Nick. Amy's friends reveal that she was afraid of him, that she kept secrets from him. He swears it isn't true. A police examination of his computer shows strange searches. He says they weren't made by him. And then there are the persistent calls on his mobile phone. So what really did happen to Nick's beautiful wife?

Good people, The
Hannah Kent

HISTORICAL
AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR
386pp; Pub 2016

In the year 1825, in a remote village in the mountains of south-west Ireland, three women are brought together by strange and troubling event. Nora Leahy has lost her daughter and her husband in the same year, and is now burdened with the care of her four-year-old grandson, Micheal. The boy cannot walk or speak, and Nora, mistrustful of the tongues of gossips, has kept the child hidden from those who might see in his deformity evidence of otherworldly interference.

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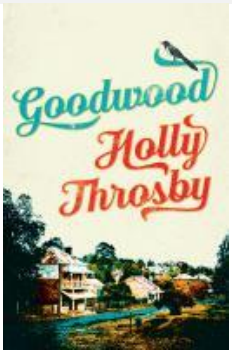
BOOK CLUB

Goodwood
Holly Throsby

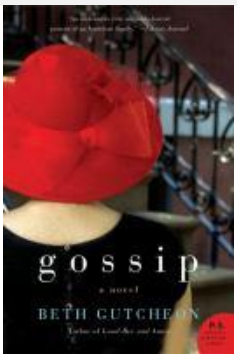
CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
378pp; Pub 2016



It wasn't just one person who went missing, it was two people. Two very different people. They were there, and then they were gone, as if through a crack in the sky. After that, in a small town like Goodwood, where we had what Nan called 'a high density of acquaintanceship', everything stopped. Or at least it felt that way. The normal feeling of things stopped.

Gossip
Beth Gutcheon

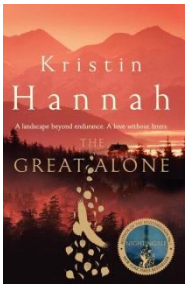
CONTEMPORARY SUSPENSE
278pp; Pub 2013



The owner of a high-end dress shop on Manhattan's Upper East Side, Loviah "Lovie" French must find a way to bridge the chilly gulf between her two closest friends, which was the result of a perceived slight from decades ago that led to tragedy.

Great alone, The
Kristin Hannah

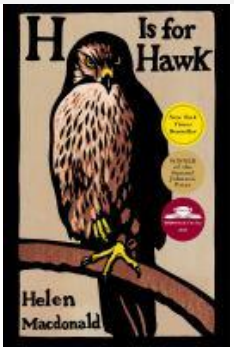
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
448pp; Pub 2018



Lenora Allbright is 13 when her father convinces her mother, Cora, to forgo their inauspicious existence in Seattle and move to Kaneq, AK. It's 1974, and the former Vietnam POW sees a better future away from the noise and nightmares that plague him. Having been left a homestead by a buddy who died in the war, Ernt is secure in his beliefs, but never was a family less prepared for the reality of Alaska, the long, cold winters and isolation. Locals want to help out, especially classmate Matthew Walker, who likes everything about Leni. Yet the harsh conditions bring out the worst in Ernt, whose paranoia takes over their lives and exacerbates what Leni sees as the toxic relationship between her parents. The Allbrights are as green as greenhorns can be, and even first love must endure unimaginable hardship and tragedy as the wilderness tries to claim more victims.

H is for Hawk
Helen MacDonald

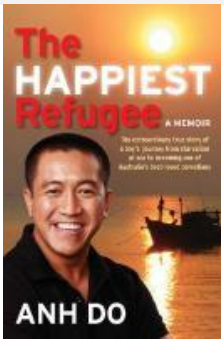
MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
300pp; Pub 2014



As a child Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer. She learned the arcane terminology and read all the classic books, including T.H. White's tortured masterpiece, The Goshawk, which describes White's struggle to train a hawk as a spiritual contest. When her father dies and she is knocked sideways by grief, she becomes obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk.

Happiest refugee, The
Ahn Do

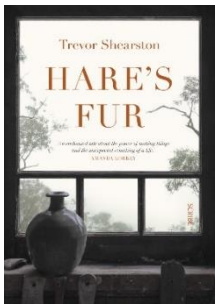
MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
AUSTRALIAN
229pp; Pub 2010



Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. This book tells the incredible, uplifting and inspiring life story of one of our favourite personalities. Tragedy, humour, heartache and unswerving determination - a big life with big dreams. Anh's story will move and amuse all who read it.

Hare's fur
Trevor Shearston

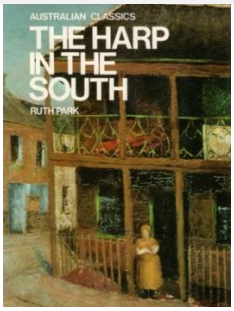
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
208pp; Pub 2019



Russell Bass is a potter living on the edge of Katoomba, in the Blue Mountains. His wife has been dead less than a year and, although he has a few close friends, he is living a mostly solitary life. Each month he hikes into the valley below his house to collect rock for glazes from a remote creek bed. One autumn morning, he finds a chocolate wrapper on the path. His curiosity leads him to a cave where three siblings — two young children and a teenage girl — are camped out, hiding from social services and the police.
Although they bolt at first, Russell slowly gains their trust, and, little by little, this unlikely group of outsiders begin to form a fragile bond.

Harp in the south, The
Ruth Park

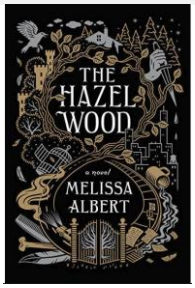
HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
CLASSIC
251pp; Orig. Pub 1948



Since it was first published in 1948, this compassionate novel has become a favourite with generations of Australian readers. The Harp in the South is a nostalgic and moving portrait of the eventful family life of the Darcys of Number Twelve-and-a-Half Plymouth Street in Surry Hills, a Sydney slum. There grow the bitter-sweet first and last loves of Roie Darcy, who becomes a woman too quickly amid the brothels and the razor gangs, the tenements and the sly-grog shops.

Hazel wood, The
Melissa Albert

SUPERNATURAL
FAMILY
CONTEMPORARY
368pp; Pub 2018



Seventeen year old Alice and her mother have spent most of Alice's life on the road, always a step ahead of the strange bad luck at their heels. But when Alice's grandmother, the reclusive author of a book of pitch-dark fairy tales, dies alone on her estate – the Hazel Wood – Alice learns how bad her luck can really get. Her mother is stolen away – by a figure who claims to come from the cruel supernatural world where her grandmother's stories are set. Alice's only lead is the message her mother left behind: STAY AWAY FROM THE HAZEL WOOD.

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BOOK CLUB

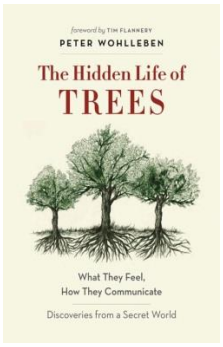
Hidden figures
Margot Lee Shetterly

NON FICTION
265pp; Pub 2016

Set amid the civil rights movement, the never-before-told true story of NASA's African-American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America's space program.

Hidden life of trees, The
Peter Wohlleben

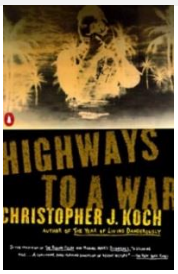
NON FICTION
SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY
FORESTS
288pp; Pub 2017



Peter Wohllenben spent over twenty years working for the forestry commission in Germany before leaving to put his ideas of ecology into practice. He now runs an area of environmentally-friendly woodland in Germany, where he is working for the return of primeval forests. He is the author of numerous books about trees.

Highways to a war
Christopher J Koch

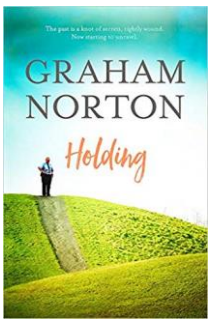
HISTORICAL FICTION
MYSTERY / THRILLER
AUSTRALIAN
496pp; Pub 1996



In a riveting new novel of wartime Cambodia and Vietnam--part thriller, part mystery, part heroic epic--the author of The Year of Living Dangerously offers the story of a likeable, brave, but ultimately mysterious war photographer who has disappeared into the jungles of Cambodia.

Holding
Graham Norton

IRISH FICTION
DETECTIVE/MURDER
312pp; Pub 2016



The remote Irish village of Duneen has known little drama, and yet its inhabitants are troubled: Sergeant P.J. Collins hasn't always been this overweight; Brid Riordan, a mother of two, hasn't always been an alcoholic; and elegant Evelyn Ross hasn't always felt that her life was a total waste.

So when human remains—suspected to be those of Tommy Burke, a former lover of both Brid and Evelyn—are discovered on an old farm, the village's dark past begins to unravel. As a frustrated P.J. struggles to solve a genuine case for the first time in his professional life, he unearths a community's worth of anger and resentments, secrets and regrets.

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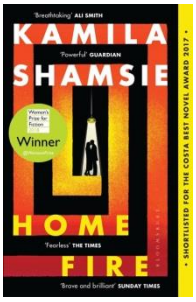
BOOK CLUB

Home fire
Kamila Shamsie

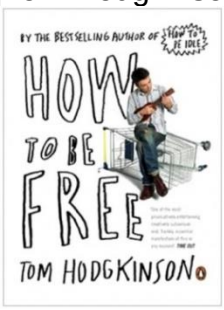
CONTEMPORARY
264pp; Pub 2017



A contemporary reimagining of Sophocles' Antigone, *Home Fire* is an urgent, fiercely compelling story of loyalties torn apart when love and politics collide – confirming Kamila Shamsie as a master storyteller of our times.

How to be free
Tom Hodgkinson

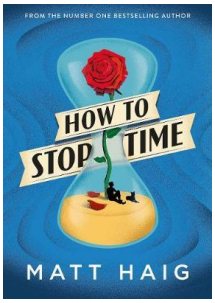
NON FICTION
352pp; Pub 2007



Have you ever wondered why you bother to go to work? Why so much of consumer culture is crap? Whether there might be a better, freer, happier way to live our lives? If so, this book is for you.

How to stop time
Matt Haig

FANTASY
ROMANCE
325pp; Pub 2017



A love story across the ages – and for the ages – about a man lost in time, the woman who could save him, and the lifetimes it can take to learn how to live.

How to Stop Time is a bighearted, wildly original novel about losing and finding yourself, the inevitability of change, and how with enough time to learn, we just might find happiness.

Husband's secret, The
Liane Moriarty

CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN
406pp; Pub 2013

When her husband announces he's in love with her best friend, painfully shy Tess picks up her son and returns to her mother's house. Rachel is a woman in her sixties consumed by grief and anger at the loss of her daughter twenty years earlier. When her son announces he is taking her grandson overseas, Rachel begins a descent into deeper bitterness. Cecilia is a devoted mother, runs her household like clockwork, is President of the P&C, owns a successful business and is happy in her marriage. Until she discovers a letter in their attic labelled: "To my wife Cecilia, to be opened in the event of my death"... Her husband's secret is a bombshell beyond all imagining with repercussions across the lives of all three women.

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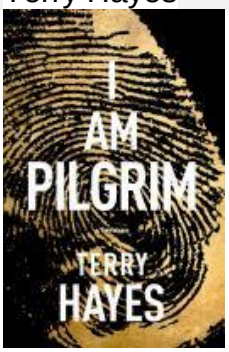
BOOK CLUB

I am Pilgrim
Terry Hayes

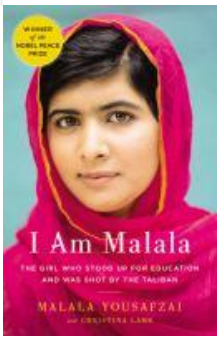
SUSPENSE / THRILLER
612pp; Pub 2014



The astonishing story of one man's breakneck race against time ... and an implacable enemy. An anonymous young woman murdered in a run-down hotel, all identifying characteristics dissolved by acid. A father publicly beheaded in the blistering heat of a Saudi Arabian public square. A notorious Syrian biotech expert found eyeless in a Damascus junkyard. Smouldering human remains on a remote mountainside in Afghanistan. A flawless plot to commit an appalling crime against humanity. One path links them all, and only one man can make the journey. Pilgrim.

I am Malala
Malala Yousafzai

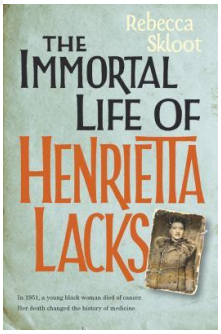
MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
276pp; Pub 2013



On Tuesday, 9 October, 2012, a fifteen-year-old Pakistani girl was shot in the face at point-blank range because she had the temerity to stand up to the Taliban. That girl, Malala Yousafzai, survived the attack and the shocking story made headlines around the world. Overnight, Malala became a global symbol of peaceful protest and education for all.

Immortal life of Henrietta Lacks, The
Rebecca Skloot

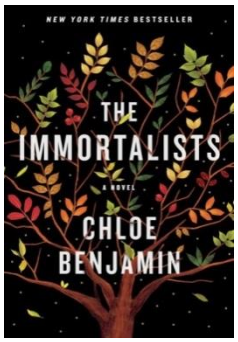
NON FICTION
369pp; Pub 2010



Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her 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.

Immortalists, The
Chloe Benjamin

DOMESTIC FICTION
409pp; Pub 2018



A sweeping novel of remarkable ambition and depth, The Immortalists probes the line between destiny and choice, reality and illusion, this world and the next. It is a deeply moving testament to the power of story, the nature of belief, and the unrelenting pull of familial bonds.

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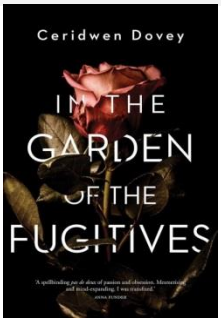
BOOK CLUB

In the garden of the fugitives
Ceridwen Dovey

AUSTRALIAN HUMOUR
PIONEER LIFE AUSTRALIA
HISTORY
433pp; Pub 2016



From the award-winning author of *Only the Animals*, comes an unputdownable novel of obsession, guilt, and the power of the past to possess the present. Almost twenty years after forbidding him to contact her, Vita receives an email from her old benefactor, Royce. Once she was one of his brightest protégées; now her career has stalled and Royce is ailing, and each has a need to settle accounts.

In the heart of the sea
Nathaniel Philbrick

NON-FICTION
302pp; Pub 2015

When the whaleship Essex set sail from Nantucket in 1819, the unthinkable happened. A mere speck in the vast Pacific ocean - and powerless against the forces of nature - Essex was rammed and sunk by an enraged sperm whale, and her twenty crewmen were forced to take to the open sea in three small boats. Ninety days later only a handful of survivors were rescued - and a terrifying story of desperation, cannibalism and courage was revealed. One of the greatest sea yarns ever spun, 'In the Heart of the Sea' is the true story of the extraordinary events that inspired Herman Melville's masterpiece 'Moby-Dick'.

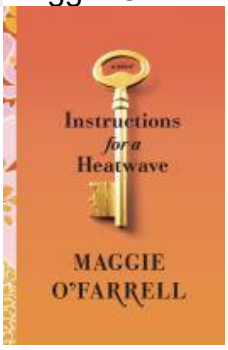
Inaugural meeting of the Fairvale ladies book club, The
Sophie Green

CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
418pp; Pub 2017

1978 in the Northern Territory: life is hard and people are isolated, but they find ways to connect. Sybil is the matriarch of Fairvale Station, Rita works for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and Ben's English wife, Kate, is finding it difficult to adjust to life at Fairvale. Sybil comes up with a way to give them all companionship and purpose: they all love to read, and she forms a book club.

Instructions for a heatwave
Maggie O'Farrell

CONTEMPORARY
289pp; Pub 2013



It's July 1976. In London, it hasn't rained for months, gardens are filled with aphids, water comes from a standpipe, and Robert Riordan tells his wife Gretta that he's going round the corner to buy a newspaper. He doesn't come back. The search for Robert brings Gretta's children - two estranged sisters and a brother on the brink of divorce - back home, each with different ideas as to where their father might have gone. None of them suspects that their mother might have an explanation that even now she cannot share.

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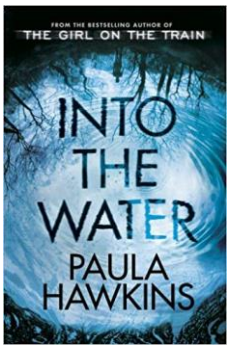
BOOK CLUB

Into the water
Paula Hawkins

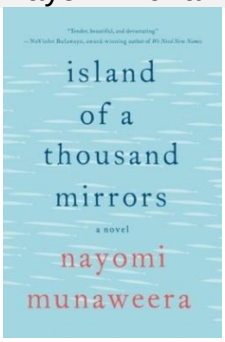
THRILLER
PSYCHOLOGICAL
359pp; Pub 2017



Just days before her sister plunged to her death, Jules ignored her call. Now Nel is dead. They say she jumped. And Jules must return to her sister's house to care for her daughter, and to face the mystery of Nel's death.
But Jules is afraid. Of her long-buried memories, of the old Mill House, of this small town that is drowning in secrecy . . .
And of knowing that Nel would never have jumped.

Island of a thousand mirrors
Nayomi Munaweera

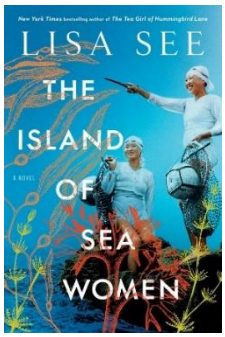
HISTORICAL FICTION
496pp; Pub 1996



Island of a Thousand Mirrors follows the fate of two families, one Tamil, one Sinhala as they straddle opposite sides of the long and brutal Sri Lankan civil war. Narrated by the eldest daughter of each family, the story explores how each woman negotiates war, migration, love, exile, and belonging. At its root, it s a story of a fragmented nation struggling to find its way to a new beginning.

Island of sea women, The
Lisa See

HISTORICAL FICTION
374pp; Pub 2019



Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls living on the Korean island of Jeju, are best friends that come from very different backgrounds. When they are old enough, they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective, led by Young-sook's mother. As the girls take up their positions as baby divers, they know they are beginning a life of excitement and responsibility but also danger.

It takes a village
Christine Stinson

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
323pp; Pub 2011

Growing up in conservative, postwar Australia isn't easy. For eight-year-old Sophie, who has just been told that she's a bastard, it seems that she lives in a world of secrets, unanswered questions and whispers. Who is her father and why did her mother never tell anyone who he was?

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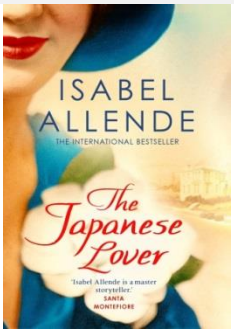
BOOK CLUB

Japanese lover, The
Isabel Allende

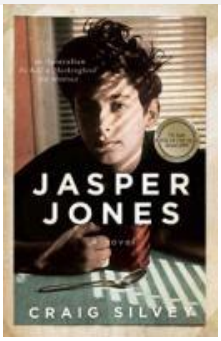
World War 2 Fiction
Japanese/American
Family
336pp; Pub 2015



From internationally bestselling author Isabel Allende comes an exquisitely crafted love story and multigenerational epic that sweeps from present-day San Francisco to Poland and the United States during WWII.

Jasper Jones
Craig Silvey

CONTEMPORARY
MYSTERY
AUSTRALIAN
299pp; Pub 2009



Late on a hot summer night in 1965, Charlie Bucktin is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleep-out. His visitor is Jasper Jones. Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress. Jasper takes him to his secret glade in the bush, and it's here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper's horrible discovery.

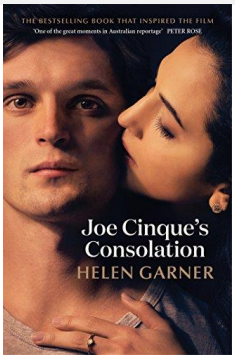
Jean Harley was here
Heather Taylor Johnson

CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN
242pp; Pub 2017

Jean Harley -- wife, mother, lover, dancer -- is a shining light in the lives of those who know and love her. But when tragedy strikes, what becomes of the people she leaves behind? Her devoted husband, Stan, is now a single father to their young son, Orion. Her best friends, Neddy and Viv, find their relationship unravelling at the seams. And Charley, the ex-con who caused it all, struggles to reconcile his past crimes with his present mistakes. Life withhandout Jean will take some getting used to, but her indelible imprint remains.

Joe Cinque's consolation
Helen Garner

NON FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
328pp; Pub 2004



In October 1997, a clever young law student at ANU made a bizarre plan to murder her devoted boyfriend after a dinner party at their house. Joe Cinque died one Sunday, in his own bed, of a massive dose of Rohypnol and heroin. His girlfriend and her best friend were charged with murder This book examines the helplessness of the courts in the face of what we think of as 'evil'; and explores conscience, culpability, and the battered ideal of duty of care.

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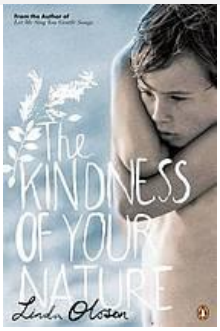
BOOK CLUB

Kindness of your nature, The
Linda Olsson

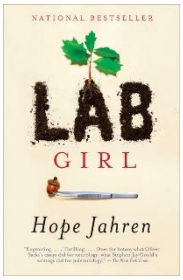
CONTEMPORARY
219pp; Pub 2011



Marion Flint lives alone on the wild west coast of New Zealand's North Island. One day she meets a small boy, Ika, on the empty, rugged beach, and an unlikely friendship begins between the Swedish doctor and the solemn child with webbed feet and a fear of being touched. As Marion's involvement with Ika deepens she is forced to revisit her own lonely childhood in Sweden, where neglect and a destructive home environment had deadly consequences.

Lab girl
Hope Jahren

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR
SCIENCE
304pp; Pub 2017



Geobiologist Hope Jahren has spent her life studying trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. *Lab Girl* is her revelatory treatise on plant life—but it is also a celebration of the lifelong curiosity, humility, and passion that drive every scientist. In these pages, Hope takes us back to her Minnesota childhood, where she spent hours in unfettered play in her father's college laboratory. She tells us how she found a sanctuary in science, learning to perform lab work "with both the heart and the hands." She introduces us to Bill, her brilliant, eccentric lab manager. And she extends the mantle of *scientist* to each one of her readers, inviting us to join her in observing and protecting our environment. Warm, luminous, compulsively readable, *Lab Girl* vividly demonstrates the mountains that we can move when love and work come together.

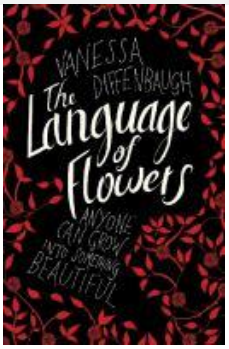
Lake house, The
Kate Morton

HISTORICAL FICTION
MYSTERY
595pp; Pub 2015

The morning after the Edevane's exclusive Midsummer Eve party in Cornwall in 1933, their youngest child, Theo, is nowhere to be found. After months of futile searching, the family pack up and leave their beautiful country home, never to return. Until, in 2003, a young female police officer stumbles into the lost gardens surrounding the abandoned house and determines to find out what happened.

Language of flowers, The
Vanessa Diffenbaugh

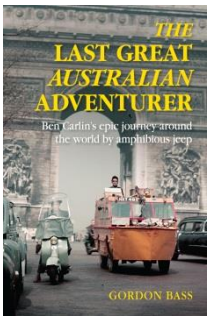
CONTEMPORARY
322pp; Pub 2011



After a childhood spent in foster care, Victoria is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen, Victoria has nowhere to go, and sleeps in a public park, where she plants a small garden of her own. When her talent is discovered by a local florist, she discovers her gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But it takes meeting a mysterious vendor at the flower market for her to realise what's been missing in her own life, and as she starts to fall for him, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.

Last great Australian adventurer, The
Gordon Bass

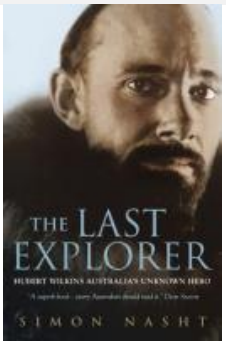
NON-FICTION
BIOGRAPHY
384pp; Pub 2017



In 1948, Ben Carlin set out from New York City with an audacious, lunatic plan to circumnavigate the world in an army surplus amphibious jeep called *Half-Safe*.

Last explorer, The
Simon Nasht

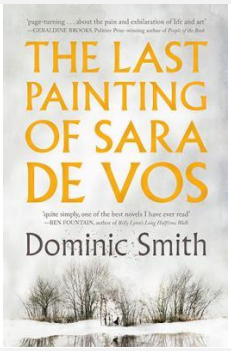
BIOGRAPHY / MEMOIR
AUSTRALIAN
316pp; Pub 2006



Hubert Wilkins was one of our greatest ever explorers. Born in South Australia, he spent much of his life outside the country, but always remained an Australian. He travelled through every continent and was a pioneer of aviation.

Last painting of Sara de Vos, The
Dominic Smith

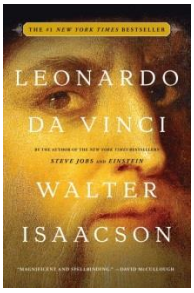
HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
374pp; Pub 2016



In 1631, Sara de Vos is admitted to the Guild of St. Luke in Holland as a master painter, the first woman to be so honoured. Three hundred years later, only one work attributed to de Vos is known to remain-a haunting winter scene, At the Edge of a Wood, which hangs over the Manhattan bed of a wealthy descendant of the original owner. An Australian grad student, Ellie Shipley, struggling to stay afloat in New York, agrees to paint a forgery of the landscape, a decision that will haunt her. Because now, half a century later, she's curating an exhibition of female Dutch painters, and both versions threaten to arrive...

Leonardo Da Vinci
Walter Isaacson

NON-FICTION
576pp; Pub 2018



The #1 *New York Times* bestseller from Walter Isaacson brings Leonardo da Vinci to life in this exciting new biography that is “a study in creativity: how to define it, how to achieve it…Most important, it is a powerful story of an exhilarating mind and life” (*The New Yorker*).

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BOOK CLUB

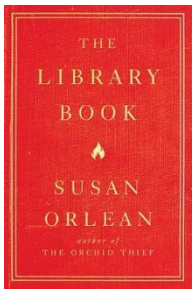
Let me sing you gentle songs
Linda Olsson

CONTEMPORARY
267pp; Pub 2005

Olsson leads us through the flowering but unusual and tender friendship of Veronica and Astrid, as they slowly and carefully reveal their life histories and sometimes heart-rending pasts. A stunning first novel by a new writer with genuine talent.

Library book, The
Susan Orlean

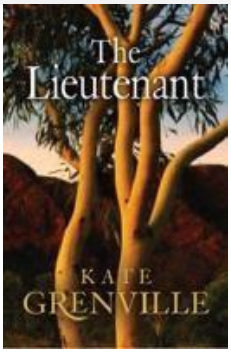
NON FICTION
336pp; Pub 2018



After moving to Los Angeles, Susan Orlean became fascinated by a mysterious local crime that has gone unsolved since it was carried out on the morning of 29 April 1986: who set fire to the Los Angeles Public Library, ultimately destroying more than 400,000 books, and perhaps even more perplexing, why?
With her characteristic humour, insight and compassion, Orlean uses this terrible event as a lens through which to tell the story of all libraries - their history, their meaning and their uncertain future as they adapt and redefine themselves in a digital world.
Filled with heart, passion and extraordinary characters, The Library Book discusses the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives.

Lieutenant, The
Kate Grenville

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
307pp; Pub 2009



In 1787 Lieutenant Thomas Rooke sets sail from Portsmouth with the First Fleet and its cargo of convicts, destined for New South Wales. As a young officer and a man of science, the shy and quiet Rooke is full of anticipation about the natural wonders he might discover in this strange land on the other side of the world. After the fleet arrives in Port Jackson, Rooke sets up camp on a rocky and isolated point, and starts his work of astronomy and navigation. It's not too long before some of the Aboriginal people who live around the harbour pay him a visit.

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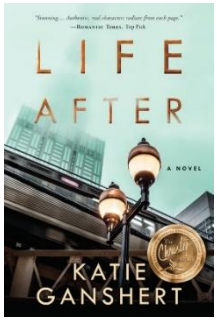
BOOK CLUB

Life after
Katie Ganshert

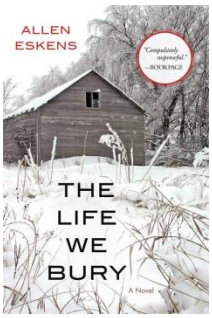
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
352pp; Pub 2017



It could have been me.
Snow whirls around an elevated train platform in Chicago. A distracted woman boards the train, takes her seat, and moments later a fiery explosion rips through the frigid air, tearing the car apart in a horrific attack on the city's transit system. One life is spared. Twenty-two are lost.
A year later, Autumn Manning can't remember the day of the bombing and she is tormented by grief—by guilt. Twelve months of the question constantly echoing. Why? Why? Why? Searching for answers, she haunts the lives of the victims, unable to rest.
Paul Elliott lost his wife in the train bombing and wants to let the dead rest in peace, undisturbed and unable to cause more pain for his loved ones. He wants normalcy for his twelve-year-old daughter and young son, to see them move beyond the heartbreak. But when the Elliotts and Autumn are unexpectedly forced together, he fears she'll bring more wreckage in her wake.

Life we bury, The
Allen Eskens

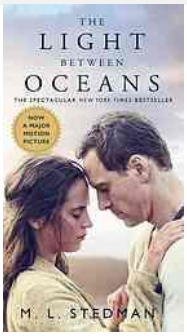
AWARD WINNER
THRILLER
303pp; Pub 2014



College student Joe Talbert has the modest goal of completing a writing assignment for an English class. His task is to interview a stranger and write a brief biography of the person. With deadlines looming, Joe heads to a nearby nursing home to find a willing subject. There he meets Carl Iverson, and soon nothing in Joe's life is ever the same.
Carl is a dying Vietnam veteran–and a convicted murderer. With only a few months to live, he has been medically paroled to a nursing home, after spending thirty years in prison for the crimes of rape and murder.

Light between oceans, The
M L Stedman

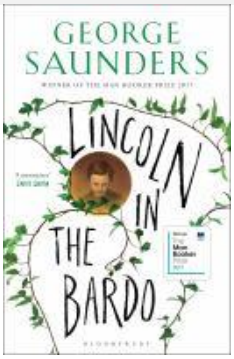
CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN
409pp; Orig Pub 2012



After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast. Tom brings a young, bold, loving wife, Isabel, to this isolated island. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby. They claim her as their own. When she is two, Tom and Isabel return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world. Their choice has devastated one of them.

Lincoln in the bardo
George Saunders

HISTORICAL FICTION
SUPERNATURAL
WINNER MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2017
341pp; Pub 2017



The American Civil War rages while President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son lies gravely ill. In a matter of days, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns to the crypt several times alone to hold his boy's body. From this seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of realism, entering a thrilling, supernatural domain both hilarious and terrifying.

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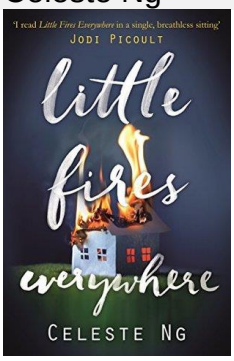
BOOK CLUB

Little fires everywhere
Celeste Ng

CONTEMPORARY
338pp; Pub 2017

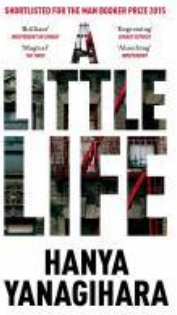


The intertwined stories of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the mother and daughter who upend their lives. Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend the carefully ordered Shaker Heights community.

Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

Little life, A
Hanya Yanagihara

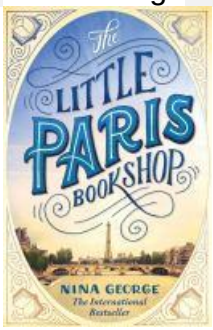
CONTEMPORARY
720pp; Pub 2016



When four graduates from a small Massachusetts college move to New York, they're broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition. There is kind, handsome Willem; quick-witted JB; frustrated architect Malcolm; and withdrawn, brilliant, enigmatic Jude, who serves as their centre of gravity. Over the decades, their relationships deepen and darken, tinged by addiction, success, and pride. Yet their greatest challenge is Jude himself, by midlife a terrifyingly talented litigator yet an increasingly broken man.

Little Paris bookshop, The
Nina George

CONTEMPORARY
359pp; Pub 2015



On a beautifully restored barge moored on the Seine, Jean Perdu runs a bookshop, or more accurately a 'literary apothecary' -- for this bookseller has a rare gift for sensing precisely which book will soothe the troubled souls of each and every customer. The only person he is unable to cure, it seems, is himself. He has been nursing a broken heart ever since the fateful night, twenty-one years ago, when the love of his life fled Paris, leaving behind her only a letter that he has never dared open.

Longbourn
Jo Baker

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
447pp; Pub 2014

It is wash-day for the housemaids at Longbourn House, and Sarah's hands are chapped and raw. Domestic life below stairs, ruled with a tender heart and an iron will by Mrs Hill the housekeeper, is about to be disturbed by the arrival of a new footman, bearing secrets and the scent of the sea.

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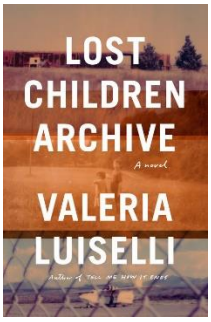
BOOK CLUB

Lost children archive
Valeria Luiselli

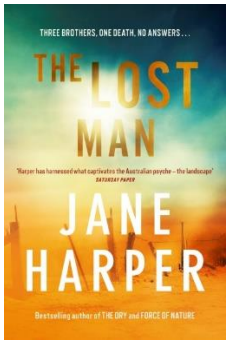
LITERARY FICTION
400pp; Pub 2019



A mother and father set out with their two children, a boy and a girl, driving from New York to Arizona in the heat of summer. Their destination: Apacheria, the place the Apaches once called home.
In their car, they play games and sing along to music. But on the radio, there is news about an “immigration crisis”: thousands of kids trying to cross the southwestern border into the United States, but getting detained–or lost in the desert along the way.
As the family drives–through Virginia to Tennessee, across Oklahoma and Texas–we sense they are on the brink of a crisis of their own. A fissure is growing between the parents, one the children can almost feel beneath their feet. They are led, inexorably, to a grand, harrowing adventure–both in the desert landscape and within the chambers of their own imaginations.

Lost man, The
Jane Harper

CRIME FICTION
384pp; Pub 2018



The man lay still in the centre of a dusty grave under a monstrous sky.
Two brothers meet at the border of their vast cattle properties under the unrelenting sun of outback Queensland.
They are at the stockman's grave, a landmark so old, no one can remember who is buried there. But today, the scant shadow it casts was the last chance for their middle brother, Cameron.
The Bright family's quiet existence is thrown into grief and anguish. Something had been troubling Cameron. Did he lose hope and walk to his death? Because if he didn't, the isolation of the outback leaves few suspects...

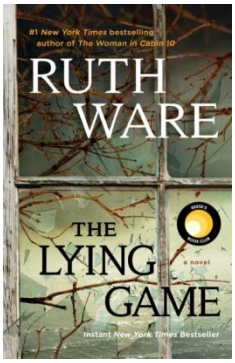
Love song of Miss Queenie Hennessy, The
Rachel Joyce

CONTEMPORARY
351pp; Pub 2014

When Queenie Hennessy is told she has days to live she sends a letter on pink paper in which she bids goodbye to Harold Fry. It is a letter that inspires an unlikely walk, a cast of well-wishers and the examination of many lives unlived. But there is a second letter, a longer, quieter more complicated letter which she will never send. It is this letter, the one we did not know about in *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, which reveals the shocking and beautiful truth of Queenie's life.

Lying game, The
Ruth Ware

LITERARY FICTION
THRILLER
416pp; Pub 2018



On a cool June morning, a woman is walking her dog in the idyllic coastal village of Salten along a tidal estuary known as the Reach. Before she can stop him, the dog charges into the water to retrieve what first appears to be a wayward stick, but to her horror, turns out to be a human bone.

The next morning, three women in and around London—Fatima, Thea, and Isa—receive the text they had always hoped would never come, from the fourth in their formerly inseparable clique, Kate. It says only “I need you.”

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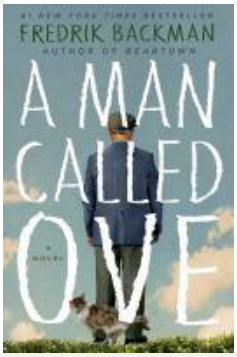
BOOK CLUB

Man called Ove, A
Fredrik Backman

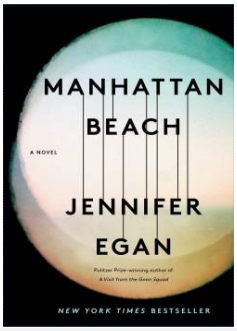
CONTEMPORARY
337pp; Pub 2014



At first sight, Ove is almost certainly the grumpiest man you will ever meet, a curmudgeon with staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. Ove's well-ordered, solitary world gets a shake-up one morning with the appearance of new neighbours. What follows is a funny and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unlikely friendships, and a community's unexpected reassessment of the one person they thought they had all figured out.

Manhattan Beach
Jennifer Egan

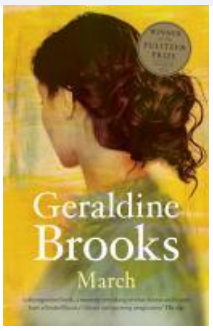
HISTORICAL FICTION
DOMESTIC FICTION
LITERARY FICTION
438pp; Pub 2017



With the atmosphere of a noir thriller, Egan's first historical novel follows Anna and Styles into a world populated by gangsters, sailors, divers, bankers, and union men. *Manhattan Beach* is a deft, dazzling, propulsive exploration of a transformative moment in the lives and identities of women and men, of America and the world.

March
Geraldine Brooks

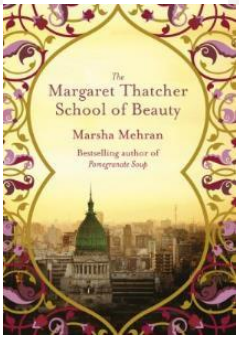
HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION 2006
346pp; Pub 2005



An idealistic abolitionist, March has gone as chaplain to serve the Union cause. But the war tests his faith not only in the Union - which is also capable of barbarism and racism - but in himself. As he recovers from a near-fatal illness, March must reassemble and reconnect with his family, who have no idea of what he has endured. A love story set in a time of catastrophe, March explores the passions between a man and a woman, the tenderness of parent and child, and the life-changing power of an ardently held belief.

Margaret Thatcher school of beauty, The
Marsha Mehran

CONTEMPORARY
300pp; Pub 2013



Set in Buenos Aires during the Falklands War, this is the story of a group of displaced Iranian refugees living in a decaying Beaux Arts building in the city centre. The inhabitants of the building form an eclectic community: a sick ex-prisoner and his daughter, a promising medical student; a timid hairdresser; a newlywed couple with a dark past; a young revolutionary; an eccentric pilgrim of Mecca; and at the heart of the group Zadi Heirati, a single mother struggling to make ends meet at the beauty salon she operates from her apartment. Drawn together by a revolution in their homeland, they begin to find solace in weekly poetry meetings.

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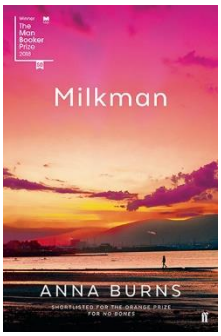
BOOK CLUB

Milkman
Anna Burns

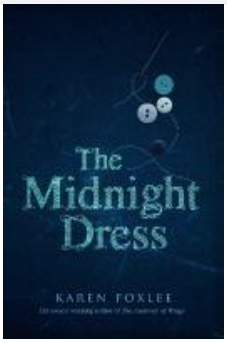
AWARD WINNER
PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION
360pp; Pub 2018



In this unnamed city, to be interesting is dangerous. Middle sister, our protagonist, is busy attempting to keep her mother from discovering her maybe-boyfriend and to keep everyone in the dark about her encounter with Milkman. But when first brother-in-law sniffs out her struggle, and rumours start to swell, middle sister becomes ‘interesting’. The last thing she ever wanted to be. To be interesting is to be noticed and to be noticed is dangerous…

Midnight dress, The
Karen Foxlee

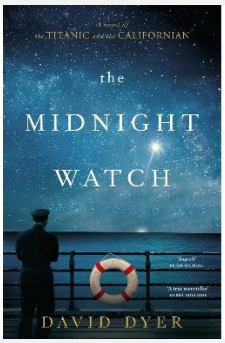
MYSTERY
328pp; Pub 2013



When Rose Lovell and her father arrive in a north Queensland sugarcane town, she knows how it will go: her father will dry out for a while, then binge at the pub one night. The next morning he'll start packing. By lunchtime they'll be gone. But this time seems different.

Midnight watch, The
David Dyer

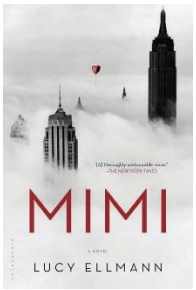
HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
323pp; Pub 2016



As the Titanic was sinking slowly in the wretchedly cold North Atlantic, she could see the lights of another ship on the horizon. She called for help by Morse lamp and the new Marconi telegraph machine, but there was no response. Just after midnight the Titanic began firing distress rockets. The other ship, the Californian, saw these rockets but didn't come. Why not? When the story of the disaster begins to emerge, it's a question that Boston American reporter John Steadman cannot let go.

Mimi
Lucy Ellmann

CONTEMPORARY FICTION
352pp; Pub 2013



It's Christmas Eve in Manhattan. An eminent plastic surgeon slips on the ice, lands on his butt, and sprains his ankle. So far, so good. A woman such as he's never known yanks him to his feet and conjures the miracle of a taxi.
Harrison recuperates with Franz Schubert, Bette Davis, and a foundling cat. Then it's back to rhinoplasties, liposuction, and the peccadilloes of his obnoxious colleagues. It is only when he collides again with that strangely helpful woman that things take a wild and revolutionary turn.

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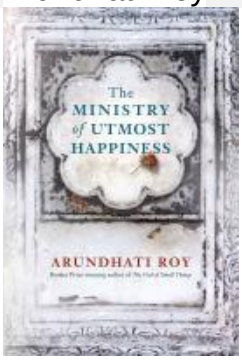
BOOK CLUB

Ministry of utmost happiness, The
Arundhati Roy

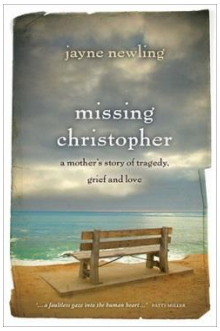
CONTEMPORARY
445pp; Pub 2017



In a graveyard outside the walls of Old Delhi, a resident unrolls a threadbare Persian carpet. On a concrete sidewalk, a baby suddenly appears, just after midnight. In a snowy valley, a bereaved father writes a letter to his five-year-old daughter about the people who came to her funeral. In a second-floor apartment, a lone woman chain-smokes as she reads through her old notebooks. At the Jannat Guest House, two people who have known each other all their lives sleep with their arms wrapped around each other, as though they have just met.

Missing Christopher
Jayne Newling

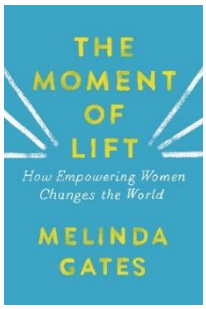
MEMOIR
AWARD WINNER
288pp; Pub 2014



The story of a mother's journey through inconsolable grief after the death of her teenage son. Powerfully written, it's an eloquent reminder that our hold on life is tenuous, and communication, love and togetherness are the key to surviving such a tragedy.

Moment of lift, The
Melinda Gates

NON-FICTION
288pp; Pub 2019

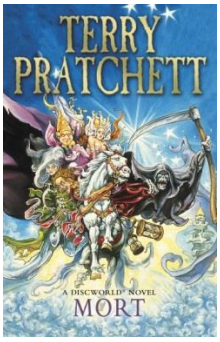


How can we summon a moment of lift for human beings - and especially for women? Because when you lift up women, you lift up humanity.

In this moving and compelling *New York Times* bestseller, Melinda shares lessons she's learned from the inspiring people she's met during her work and travels around the world. As she writes in the introduction, 'That is why I had to write this book - to share the stories of people who have given focus and urgency to my life. I want all of us to see ways we can lift women up where we live.'

Mort
Terry Pratchett

HUMOUR
SATIRE
320pp; Pub 1987



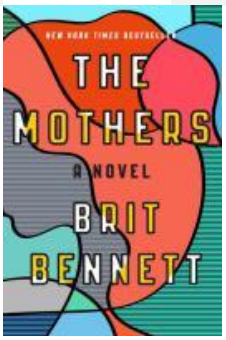
Death comes to us all. When he came to Mort, he offered him a job. Henceforth, Death is no longer going to be the end, merely the means to an end. It's an offer Mort can't refuse. As Death's apprentice he'll have free board, use of the company horse - and being dead isn't compulsory. It's a dream job - until he discovers that it can be a killer on his love life...

northern beaches council

BOOK CLUB

Mothers, The
Brit Bennett

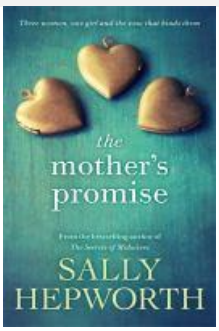
CONTEMPORARY
278pp; Pub 2016



It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken beauty. Mourning her mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. Luke Sheppard is twenty-one, a former football star whose injury has reduced him to waiting tables at a diner. It's not serious-- until the pregnancy. As years move by, Nadia, Luke, and her friend Aubrey are living in debt to the choices they made that one seaside summer, caught in a love triangle they must carefully manoeuvre, and dogged by the constant, nagging question: What if they had chosen differently?

Mother's Promise, The
Sally Hepworth

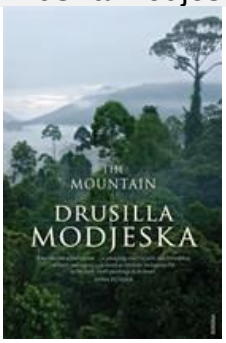
CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
374pp; Pub 2017



Alice and her daughter Zoe have been a team of two all their lives. With no family to speak of, and the identity of Zoe's father shrouded in mystery, they've never needed anyone else - until Alice gets sick. Desperate to find stability for Zoe, Alice reaches out to two near-strangers: Kate, her oncology nurse, and Sonja, her social worker. As the lives of the three women become inextricably tied, a chain of events is set into motion, forcing them to confront their deepest fears and secrets.

Mountain, The
Drusilla Modjeska

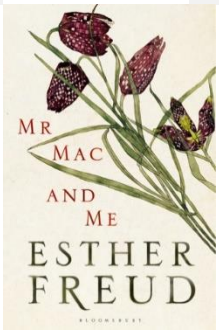
HISTORICAL FICTION
448pp; Pub 2012



In 1968, Papua New Guinea is on the brink of independence, and everything is about to change. Amidst the turmoil filmmaker Leonard arrives from England with his Dutch wife, Rika, to study and film an isolated village high in the mountains. This sweeping novel takes us deep into this fascinating, complex country, whose culture and people cannot escape the march of modernity that threatens to overwhelm them. It is a riveting story of love, loss, grief, and betrayal.

Mr Mac and me
Esther Freud

HISTORICAL FICTION
293pp; Pub 2014



It is 1914, and Thomas Maggs, the son of the local publican, lives with his parents and sister in a village on the Suffolk coast. Life is quiet - shaped by the seasons, fishing and farming, the summer visitors … Then one day a mysterious Scotsman arrives. He is the great Glaswegian artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh. In this compelling story of an unlikely friendship, Esther Freud paints a vivid portrait of a home front community during the First World War, and of a man who was one of the most brilliant and misunderstood artists of his generation.

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BOOK CLUB

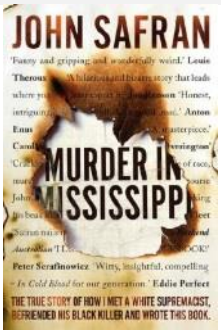
Mr Penumbra's 24-hour book store
Robin Sloan

MYSTERY
288pp; Pub 2012

Clay Jannon, twenty-six and unemployed, reads books about vampire policemen and teenage wizards. Familiar, predictable books. Books that fit neatly into a section at the bookstore. But he is about to encounter a new species of book entirely: secret, strange, and frantically sought-after.

Murder in Mississippi
John Safran

NON FICTION
368pp; Pub 2013



When filming his TV series Race Relations, John Safran spent an uneasy couple of days with one of Mississippi's most notorious white supremacists. A year later, he heard that the man had been murdered - and what was more, the killer was black. At first the murder seemed a twist on the old Deep South race crimes. But then more news rolled in. Maybe it was a dispute over money, or most intriguingly, over sex. Could the infamous racist actually have been secretly gay, with a thing for black men? Did Safran have the last footage of him alive? Could this be the story of a lifetime?

My brilliant friend
Elana Ferrante

HISTORICAL
331pp; Pub 2012

Book 1 of The Neapolitan novels

The story begins in the 1950s, in a poor but vibrant neighbourhood on the outskirts of Naples. Growing up on these tough streets the two girls learn to rely on each other ahead of anyone or anything else. As they grow, as their paths repeatedly diverge and converge, Elena and Lila remain best friends whose respective destinies are reflected and refracted in the other. Through the lives of these two women, Ferrante tells the story of a neighbourhood, a city, and a country as it is transformed in ways that, in turn, also transform the relationship between her protagonists, the unforgettable Elena and Lila.

My brother Jack
George Johnston

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN CLASSIC
364pp; Orig Pub 1964

David and Jack Meredith grow up in a patriotic suburban Melbourne household during the First World War, and go on to lead lives that could not be more different. Through the story of the two brothers, George Johnston created an enduring exploration of two Australian myths: that of the man who loses his soul as he gains worldly success, and that of the tough, honest Aussie battler, whose greatest ambition is to serve his country during the war.

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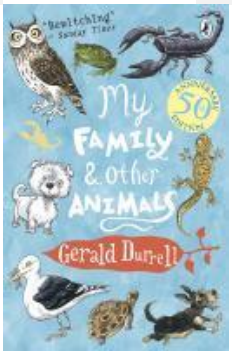
BOOK CLUB

My family and other animals
Gerald Durrel

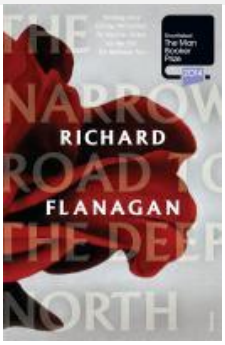
MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
386pp; Pub 2006



Escaping the ills of the British climate, the Durrell family - acne-ridden Margo, gun-toting Leslie, bookworm Lawrence and budding naturalist Gerry, along with their long-suffering mother and Roger the dog - take off for the island of Corfu.In a series of colourful villas, the Durrells give a sometimes reluctant home to a trail of local fauna, among them scorpions, geckos, toads, bats and butterflies. Recounted with immense humour and charm, this is a wonderful account of a rare and magical childhood.

Narrow road to the deep north, The
Richard Flanagan

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
Winner Man Booker Prize
467pp; Pub 2013



The story, of Dorrigo Evans, an Australian doctor haunted by a love affair with his uncle's wife, journeys from the caves of Tasmanian trappers in the early twentieth century to a crumbling pre-war beachside hotel; from a Thai jungle prison to a Japanese snow festival; from the Changi gallows to a chance meeting of lovers on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. At the story's heart is one day in a Japanese slave labour camp in August 1943. As the day builds to its horrific climax, Dorrigo Evans battles and fails in his quest to save the lives of his fellow POWs, a man is killed for no reason, and a love story unfolds.

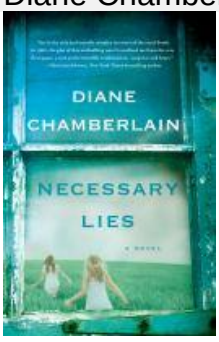
Natural way of things, The
Charlotte Wood

SUSPENSE
AUSTRALIAN
STELLA PRIZE
315pp; Pub 2015

Two women awaken from a drugged sleep to find themselves imprisoned in a broken-down property in the middle of a desert. Strangers to each other, they have no idea where they are or how they came to be there with eight other girls, forced to wear strange uniforms, their heads shaved, guarded by two inept yet vicious armed jailers and a 'nurse'. Doing hard labour under a sweltering sun, the prisoners soon learn what links them: in each girl's past is a sexual scandal with a powerful man.

Necessary lies
Diane Chamberlain

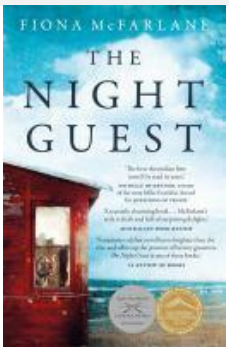
CONTEMPORARY
368pp; Pub 2013



After losing her parents, fifteen-year-old Ivy Hart is left to care for her grandmother, older sister and nephew as tenants on a small tobacco farm. As she struggles with her grandmother's aging, her sister's mental illness and her own epilepsy, she realizes they might need more than she can give. When Jane Forrester takes a position as Grace County's newest social worker, she doesn't realize just how much her help is needed. She quickly becomes emotionally invested in her clients' lives and as she is drawn in by the Hart women, she begins to discover the secrets of the small farm - secrets much darker than she would have guessed.

Night guest, The
Fiona McFarlane

CONTEMPORARY
275pp; Pub 2014



One morning Ruth wakes thinking a tiger has been in her seaside house. Later that day a formidable woman called Frida arrives, looking as if she's blown in from the sea. In fact she's come to care for Ruth. Frida and the tiger: both are here to stay, and neither is what they seem.

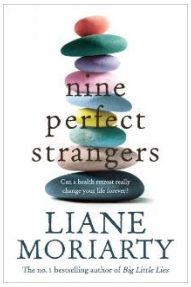
Nightingale
Fiona McIntosh

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
385pp; Pub 2015

Amidst the carnage of Gallipoli, British nurse Claire Nightingale falls in love with Australian Light Horseman Jamie Wren. Their flame burns bright, even when war tears them apart. Come peacetime, Claire's desperate search to find Jamie takes her all the way to Istanbul, and deep into the heart of a Turkish family. Cultures come together, enemies embrace and forbidden passions helplessly ignite.

Nine perfect strangers
Liane Moriarty

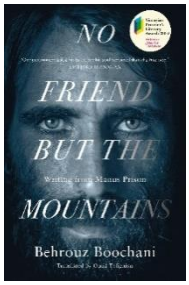
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
512pp; Pub 2018



The retreat at health and wellness resort Tranquillum House promises total transformation. Nine stressed city dwellers are keen to drop their literal and mental baggage, and absorb the meditative ambience while enjoying their hot stone massages.
Watching over them is the resort's director, a woman on a mission to reinvigorate their tired minds and bodies.
These nine perfect strangers have no idea what is about to hit them.
With her wit, compassion and uncanny understanding of human behaviour, Liane Moriarty explores the depth of connection that can be formed when people are thrown together in... unconventional circumstances.

No friend but the mountains
Behrouz Boochani

AWARD WINNER
BIOGRAPHY
374pp; Pub 2018



In 2013, Kurdish journalist Behrouz Boochani was illegally detained on Manus Island. He has been there ever since.
This book is the result. Laboriously tapped out on a mobile phone and translated from the Farsi. It is a voice of witness, an act of survival. A lyric first-hand account. A cry of resistance. A vivid portrait through five years of incarceration and exile.

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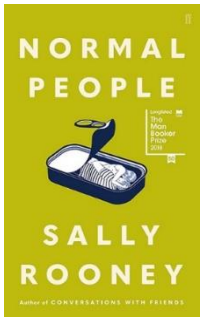
BOOK CLUB

Normal people
Sally Rooney

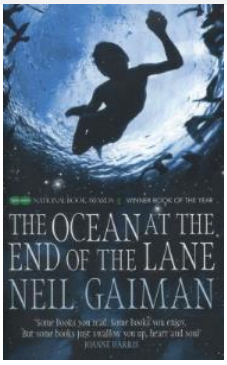
AWARD WINNER
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
288pp; Pub 2018



Connell and Marianne grow up in the same small town in rural Ireland. The similarities end there; they are from very different worlds. When they both earn places at Trinity College in Dublin, a connection that has grown between them lasts long into the following years.
This is an exquisite love story about how a person can change another person's life - a simple yet profound realisation that unfolds beautifully over the course of the novel. It tells us how difficult it is to talk about how we feel and it tells us - blazingly - about cycles of domination, legitimacy and privilege. Alternating menace with overwhelming tenderness, Sally Rooney's second novel breathes fiction with new life.

Ocean at the end of the lane, The
Neil Gaiman

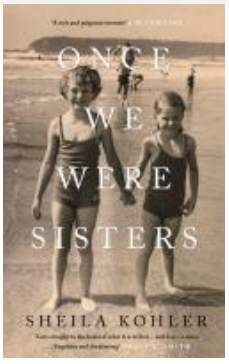
MAGICAL REALISM
CONTEMPORARY
pp; Pub 2013



Sussex, England. A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock ... Forty years earlier, a man committed suicide in a stolen car at this farm at the end of the road. Like a fuse on a firework, his death lit a touchpaper and resonated in unimaginable ways. The darkness was unleashed, something scary and thoroughly incomprehensible to a little boy. And Lettie—magical, comforting, wise beyond her years—promised to protect him, no matter what.

Once we were sisters
Sheila Kohler

MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
244pp; Pub 2017



A heartrending literary memoir of the tragic death of Kohler's older sister describes how in the aftermath of a fatal car accident, the author investigated their unusual shared childhood and her brother-in-law's violent history. After learning that her sister Maxine was killed when her husband drove them off a deserted road in Johannesburg, Kohler flew back to the country where she was born, determined to reckon with the tragedy and her family's history of choosing unsuitable men. Flashing back to their childhood at the family estate, Crossways, Kohler tells of the death of her father and being raised by their mother, at turns distant and suffocating. She shows how the bond between sisters changes but never breaks, even after death.

One life: My mother's story
Kate Grenville

MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
AUSTRALIAN
260pp; Pub 2015

Nance was a week short of her sixth birthday when she and Frank were roused out of bed in the dark and lifted into the buggy, squashed in with bedding and cooking pots, and her mother shouting back towards the house: Goodbye, Rothsay, I hope I never see you again! When Kate Grenville's mother died she left behind many fragments of memoir. These were the starting point for One Life, the story of a woman whose life spanned a century of tumult and change. In many ways Nance's story echoes that of many mothers and grandmothers, for whom the spectacular shifts of the twentieth century offered a path to new freedoms and choices.

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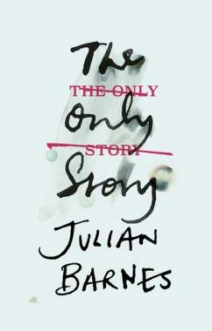
BOOK CLUB

Only story, The
Julian Barnes

CONTEMPORARY
212pp; Pub 2018

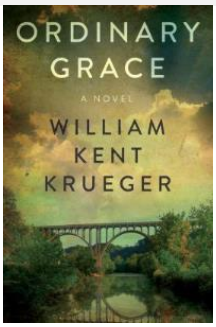


Would you rather love the more, and suffer the more; or love the less, and suffer the less? That is, I think, finally, the only real question.
First love has lifelong consequences, but Paul doesn't know anything about that at nineteen. At nineteen, he's proud of the fact his relationship flies in the face of social convention.

As he grows older, the demands placed on Paul by love become far greater than he could possibly have foreseen.

Ordinary Grace
William Kent Kreuger

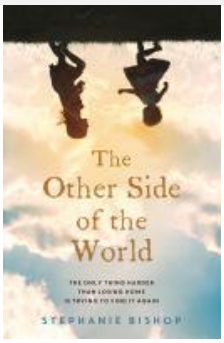
MYSTERY
307pp; Pub 2014



Looking back at a tragic event that occurred during his thirteenth year, Frank Drum explores how a complicated web of secrets, adultery, and betrayal shattered his Methodist family and their small 1961 Minnesota community.

Other side of the world, The
Stephanie Bishop

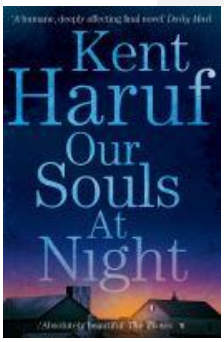
CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN
283pp; Pub 2015



Cambridge, 1963. Charlotte is struggling. With motherhood, with the changes marriage and parenthood bring, with losing the time and the energy to paint. Her husband, Henry, wants things to be as they were and can't face the thought of another English winter. A brochure slipped through the letterbox slot brings him the answer: Australia brings out the best in you. Despite wanting to stay in the place that she knows, Charlotte is too worn out to fight. Before she has a chance to realise what it will mean, she is travelling to the other side of the world.

Our souls at night
Kent Haruf

CONTEMPORARY
179pp; Pub 2015



A story about growing old with grace. Addie Moore and Louis Waters have been neighbours for years. Now they both live alone, their houses empty of family, their quiet nights solitary. Then one evening Addie pays Louis a visit.

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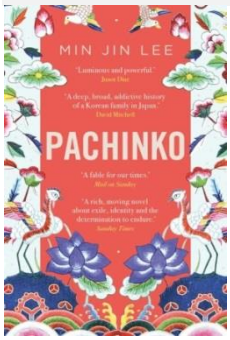
BOOK CLUB

Pachinko
Min Jin Lee

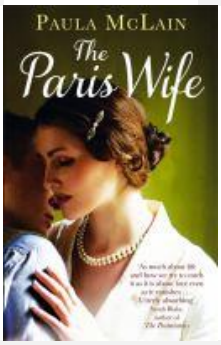
HISTORICAL FICTION
JAPANESE/KOREAN FICTION
FAMILY FICTION
560pp; Pub 2017



PACHINKO follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young tubercular minister offers to marry and bring her to Japan. So begins a sweeping saga of an exceptional family in exile from its homeland and caught in the indifferent arc of history. Through desperate struggles and hard-won triumphs, its members are bound together by deep roots as they face enduring questions of faith, family, and identity.

Paris wife, The
Paula McLain

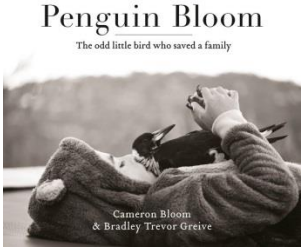
HISTORICAL FICTION
392pp; Pub 2011



Chicago, 1920: Hadley Richardson is a shy twenty-eight-year-old who has all but given up on love and happiness when she meets Ernest Hemingway and is captivated by his energy, intensity and burning ambition to write. After a whirlwind courtship and wedding, the pair set sail for France. But glamorous Jazz Age Paris, full of artists and writers, fuelled by alcohol and gossip, is no place for family life and fidelity.

Penguin Bloom
Cameron Bloom

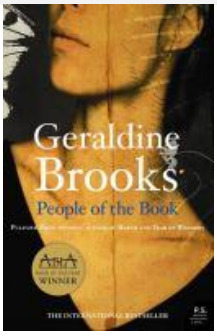
MEMOIR
208pp; Pub 2016



This is a true story of hope and courage. It begins with a shocking accident, in which Cameron's wife, Sam, suffers a near fatal fall that leaves her paralysed and deeply depressed. Into their lives comes Penguin, an injured magpie chick abandoned after she fell from her nest.

People of the book
Geraldine Brooks

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
465pp; Pub 2008



In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artefacts in its ancient binding-an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair-she begins to unlock the book's mysteries.

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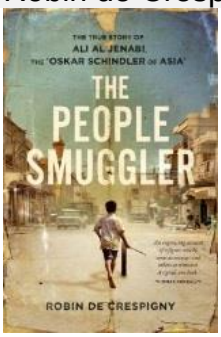
BOOK CLUB

People smuggler: The true story of Ali Al Jenabi, the 'Oskar Schindler of Asia'

Robin de Crespigny

NON FICTION
351pp; Pub 2012
Australian Author

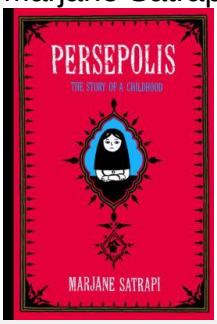


After his father, brother and he were incarcerated and tortured in Saddam's Abu Ghraib, Ali al Jenabi escaped from Iraq first to work with the anti-Saddam resistance in Iran and then to help his family out of the country all together.

Persepolis

Marjane Satrapi

GRAPHIC NOVEL
153pp; Pub 2004



Persepolis paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, Persepolis is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, with laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. And finally, the graphic novel introduces us to an irresistible little girl with whom we cannot help but fall in love.

Persuasion

Jane Austen

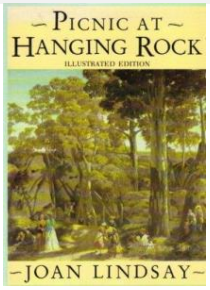
CLASSIC
260pp; Orig Pub 1817

Eight years ago Anne Elliot bowed to pressure from her family and made the decision not to marry the man she loved, Captain Wentworth. Now circumstances have conspired to bring him back into her social circle and Anne finds her old feelings for him reignited. However, when they meet again Wentworth behaves as if they are strangers and seems more interested in her friend Louisa.

Picnic at Hanging Rock

Joan Lindsay

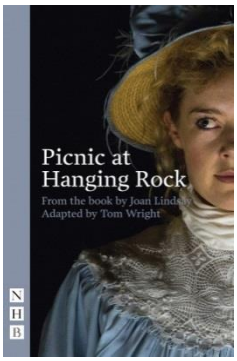
MYSTERY
CLASSIC
HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
189pp; Orig Pub 1967



It was a cloudless summer day in the year nineteen hundred. Everyone at Appleyard College for Young Ladies agreed it was just right for a picnic at Hanging Rock. After lunch, a group of three of the girls climbed into the blaze of the afternoon sun, pressing on through the scrub into the shadows of Hanging Rock. Further, higher, till at last they disappeared. They never returned.

Picnic at Hanging Rock (stage version)
Joan Lindsay/Tom Wright

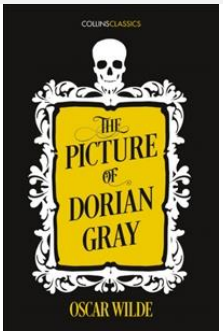
PLAYS
MYSTERY & CRIME
80pp; Pub 2017



On a summer's day in 1900, three Australian schoolgirls on a picnic expedition to the remote Hanging Rock abscond from their group. They are last seen heading towards the beckoning Rock…

Picture of Dorian Gray, The
Oscar Wilde

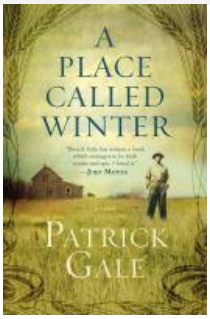
GOTHIC HORROR
CLASSIC
224pp; Orig Pub 1890



A truly classic gothic horror novel for the ages. A Picture of Dorian Gray has captivated generations of readers with its ethical and artistic questions. What are the true costs of excess? What happens when an artist cares more for his artistic vision than his fellow man? What price should one pay for beauty? A story of duplicity and indulgence, the sacred and the profane. Oscar Wilde at his very best.

Place called winter, A
Patrick Gale

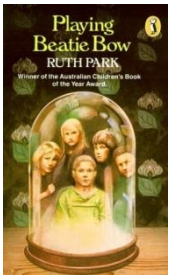
HISTORICAL FICTION
368pp; Pub 2016



To find yourself, sometimes you must lose everything. A privileged elder son, and stammeringly shy, Harry Cane has followed convention at every step. Even the beginnings of an illicit, dangerous affair do little to shake the foundations of his muted existence - until the shock of discovery and the threat of arrest cost him everything. Forced to abandon his wife and child, Harry signs up for emigration to the newly colonised Canadian prairies.

Playing Beatie Bow
Ruth Park

CLASSIC FICTION
208pp; Pub 1982



The game is called Beatie Bow and the children play it for the thrill of scaring themselves. But when Abigail is drawn in, the game is quickly transformed into an extraordinary, sometimes horrifying, adventure as she finds herself transported to a place that is foreign yet strangely familiar ...

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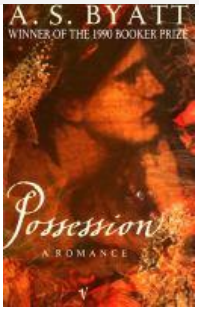
BOOK CLUB

Possession
A S Byatt

HISTORICAL FICTION
MYSTERY
Man Booker Prize Winner
Commonwealth Writers' Prize Winner
555pp; Pub 1990



It is the tale of a pair of young scholars researching the lives of two Victorian poets. As they uncover their letters, journals, and poems, and track their movements from London to Yorkshire—from spiritualist séances to the fairy-haunted far west of Brittany—what emerges is an extraordinary counterpoint of passions and ideas.

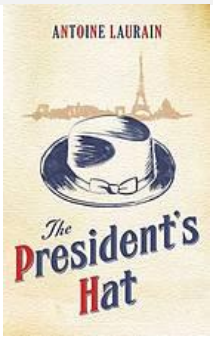
Postmistress, The
Sarah Blake

HISTORICAL FICTION
322pp Orig Pub 2010

It is 1940, and bombs fall nightly on London. In the thick of the chaos is young American radio reporter Frankie Bard. She huddles close to terrified strangers in underground shelters, and later broadcasts stories about survivors in rubble-strewn streets. But for her listeners, the war is far from home. Listening to Frankie are a Cape Cod postmistress and a doctor's wife. But one night in London the fates of all three women entwine when Frankie finds a letter - a letter she vows to deliver...

President's hat, The
Antione Laurain

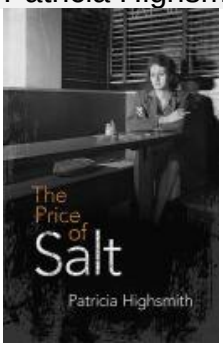
CONTEMPORARY
208pp; Pub 2013



Dining alone in an elegant Parisian brasserie, accountant Daniel Mercier can hardly believe his eyes when President Francois Mitterrand sits down to eat at the table next to him. After the presidential party has gone, Daniel discovers that Mitterrand's black felt hat has been left behind. Daniel decides to keep the hat as a souvenir, and as he leaves the restaurant, he begins to feel somehow different.

Price of salt, The
Patricia Highsmith

CLASSIC
249pp; Orig Pub 1952



A chance encounter between two lonely women leads to a passionate romance in this lesbian cult classic. Therese, a struggling young sales clerk, and Carol, a homemaker in the midst of a bitter divorce, abandon their oppressive daily routines for the freedom of the open road, where their love can blossom. But their newly discovered bliss is shattered when Carol is forced to choose between her child and her lover.

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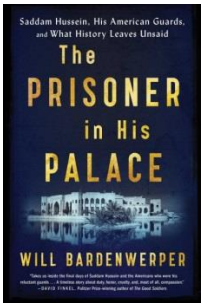
BOOK CLUB

Prisoner in his palace, The
Will Bardenwerper

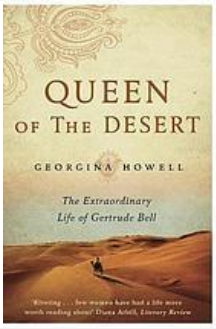
NON-FICTION
246pp; Pub 2017



In the haunting tradition of *In Cold Blood* and *The Executioner's Song*, this remarkably insightful and surprisingly intimate portrait of Saddam Hussein lifts away the top layer of a dictator's evil and finds complexity beneath as it invites us to take a journey with twelve young American soldiers in the summer of 2006. Trained to aggressively confront the enemy in combat, the men learn, shortly after being deployed to Iraq, that fate has assigned them a different role. It becomes their job to guard the country's notorious leader in the months leading to his execution.

Queen of the desert: The extraordinary life of Gertrude Bell
Georgina Howell

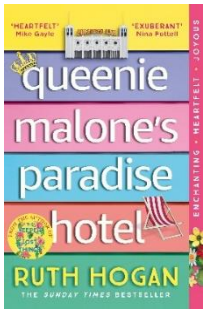
MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
518pp; Pub 2006



Archaeologist, spy, Arabist, linguist, author, poet, photographer, mountaineer and nation builder, Gertrude Bell was born in 1868 into a world of privilege and plenty, but she turned her back on all that for her passion for the Arab peoples, becoming the architect of the independent kingdom of Iraq and seeing its first king Faisal safely onto the throne in 1921.

Queenie Malone's Paradise Hotel
Ruth Hogan

CONTEMPORARY FICTION
336pp; Pub 2019



Tilly was a bright, outgoing little girl who liked playing with ghosts and matches. She loved fizzy drinks, swear words, fish fingers and Catholic churches, but most of all she loved living in Brighton in Queenie Malone's magnificent Paradise Hotel with its endearing and loving family of misfits - staff and guests alike. But Tilly's childhood was shattered when her mother sent her away from the only home she'd ever loved to boarding school with little explanation and no warning. Now, Tilda has grown into an independent woman still damaged by her mother's unaccountable cruelty. Wary of people, her only friend is her dog, Eli. But when her mother dies, Tilda goes back to Brighton and with the help of her beloved Queenie sets about unravelling the mystery of her exile from The Paradise Hotel and discovers that her mother was not the woman she thought she knew at all.

Questions of travel
Michelle de Kretser

CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
Miles Franklin Literary Award Winner 2013
517pp; Pub 2013

A mesmerising literary novel, Questions of Travel charts two very different lives. Laura travels the world before returning to Sydney, where she works for a publisher of travel guides. Ravi dreams of being a tourist until he is driven from Sri Lanka by devastating events.

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BOOK CLUB

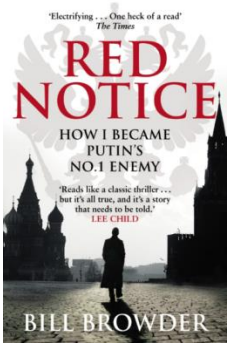
Reckoning
Magda Szubanski

MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
AUSTRALIAN
374pp; Pub 2015

Reckoning is the book where Magda Szubanski, one of Australia's most beloved performers, tells her story. In this extraordinary memoir, Magda describes her journey of self-discovery from a suburban childhood, haunted by the demons of her father's espionage activities in wartime Poland and by her secret awareness of her sexuality, to the complex dramas of adulthood and her need to find out the truth about herself and her family.

Red notice: How I became Putin's no.1 enemy
Bill Browder

NON-FICTION
480pp; Pub 2016

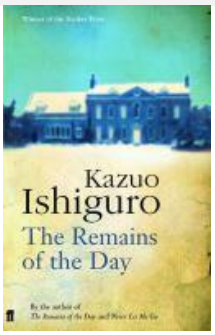


In November 2009, the young lawyer Sergei Magnitsky was beaten to death by eight police officers in a freezing cell in a Moscow prison. His crime? Testifying against Russian officials who were involved in a conspiracy to steal $230 million of taxes.

Corruption, dirty politics and murder in Russia - told by one of Putin's Most Wanted.

Remains of the day, The
Kazuo Ishiguro

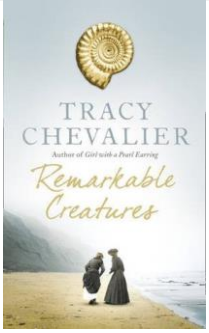
HISTORICAL FICTION
Man Booker Prize Winner
258pp Orig Pub 1989



In the summer of 1956, Stevens, the ageing butler of Darlington Hall, embarks on a leisurely holiday that will take him deep into the countryside and into his past…A contemporary classic, The Remains of the Day is Kazuo Ishiguro's beautiful and haunting evocation of life between the wars in a Great English House, of lost causes and lost love.

Remarkable creatures
Tracy Chevalier

HISTORICAL FICTION
352pp; Orig Pub 2009



In 1810, a sister and brother uncover the fossilized skull of an unknown animal in the cliffs on the south coast of England. With its long snout and prominent teeth, it might be a crocodile – except that it has a huge, bulbous eye. *Remarkable Creatures* is the story of Mary Anning, who has a talent for finding fossils, and whose discovery of ancient marine reptiles such as that ichthyosaur shakes the scientific community and leads to new ways of thinking about the creation of the world.

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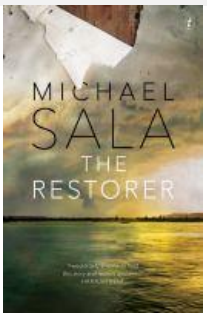
BOOK CLUB

Restorer, The
Michael Sala

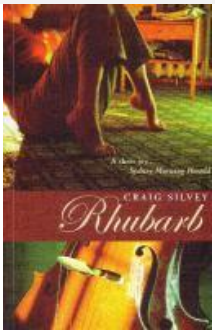
CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
342pp; Pub 2017



After a year apart, Maryanne returns to her husband, Roy, bringing their eight-year-old son Daniel and his teenage sister Freya with her. The family move from Sydney to Newcastle, where Roy has bought a derelict house on the coast. As Roy painstakingly patches the holes in the floorboards and plasters over cracks in the walls, Maryanne believes that they can rebuild a life together. But Freya doesn't want a fresh start, she just wants out and Daniel drifts around the sprawling house in a dream, infuriating his father, who soon forgets his promises. Some cracks can never be smoothed over, and tension grows between Roy and Maryanne until their uneasy peace is ruptured with devastating consequences.

Rhubarb
Craig Silvey

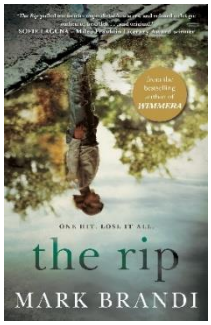
CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
332pp; Pub 2004



Meet Eleanor Rigby: tiny, blind and left behind. Led by her zealous, overprotective guide dog, Warren, she courses constantly through the places she knows. Tired, mired and sequestered from the world, Eleanor can't shirk the feeling she's going nowhere slowly until, of course, she recognises something in the sound of Ewan Dempsey, reclusive and compulsive maker and player of cellos, who impels in Eleanor a rare moment of caprice.

Rip, The
Mark Brandi

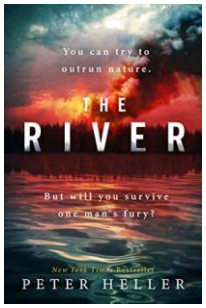
AUSTRALIAN FICTION
272pp; Pub 2019



A young woman living on the street has to keep her wits about her.
Or her friends. But when the drugs kick in that can be hard.
Anton has been looking out for her. She was safe with him. But then Steve came along.
He had something over Anton. Must have. But he had a flat they could crash in.
And gear in his pocket. And she can't stop thinking about it. A good hit makes everything all right.
But the flat smells weird.
There's a lock on Steve's bedroom door.
And the guy is intense.
The problem is, sometimes you just don't know you are in too deep, until you are drowning.

River, The
Peter Heller

SUSPENSE & THRILLER
272pp; Pub 2019



From the best-selling author of The Dog Stars, the story of two college students on a wilderness canoe trip–a gripping tale of a friendship tested by fire, white water, and violence

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BOOK CLUB

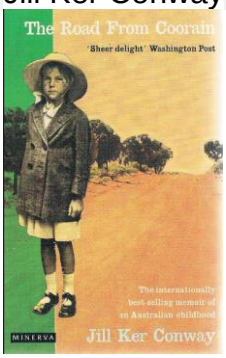
River house, The
Janita Cunnington

CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
414pp; Pub 2016

It is the late 1940s and for four year old Laurie Carlyle the River House, an old weatherboard box on stumps where the Carlyle family take their holidays, fires the imagination. But when a squabble between Laurie and her older brother Tony takes an unexpected turn, she detects the first hints of family discord. As the years pass, The River House holidays seem to shine a light on the undercurrents in the family: the secret from her mother's past, the bitterness between Tony and their father Doug, and her sister Miranda's increasingly erratic and dangerous behaviour.

Road from Coorain, The
Jill Ker Conway

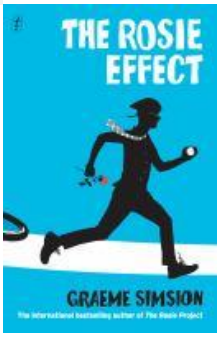
AUSTRAIAN BIOGRAPHY
237pp; Pub 1989



In 1930 Jill Ker Conway's newly married parents bought the remote sheep station of Coorain. There Jill and her two elder brothers enjoyed an idyllic childhood on the prosperous and beautiful estate. But when Jill reached the age of eight, Coorain was struck by a devastating drought in which most of the Kers' sheep were lost. Jill's father died, and the grief-stricken family, overwhelmed by the series of disasters, left their beloved home and moved to the city of Sydney.

Rosie effect, The
Graeme Simsion

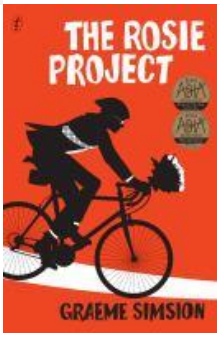
CONTEMPORARY
415pp; Pub 2014



GREETINGS. My name is Don Tillman. I am forty-one years old. I have been married to Rosie Jarman, world's most perfect woman, for ten months and ten days. Marriage added significant complexity to my life. When we relocated to New York City, Rosie brought three maximum-size suitcases. We abandoned the Standardised Meal System and agreed that sex should not be scheduled in advance.

Rosie project, The
Graeme Simsion

CONTEMPORARY
329pp; Pub 2013



Don Tillman, professor of genetics, has never been on a second date. Then a chance encounter gives him an idea. He will design a questionnaire-a sixteen-page, scientifically researched document-to find the perfect partner. She will most definitely not be a barmaid, a smoker, a drinker or a late-arriver. Rosie Jarman is all these things. She is strangely beguiling, fiery and intelligent. And she is also on a quest of her own. She's looking for her biological father, a search that a certain DNA expert might just be able to help her with-even if he does wear quick-dry clothes and eat lobster every single Tuesday night.

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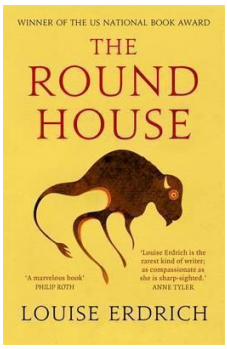
BOOK CLUB

Round house, The
Louise Erdrich

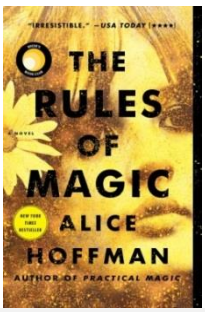
LITERARY FICTION
THRILLER/SUSPENSE
NATIVE AMERICAN
369pp; Pub 2012



The Round House won the National Book Award for fiction.
One of the most revered novelists of our time—a brilliant chronicler of Native-American life—Louise Erdrich returns to the territory of her bestselling, Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Plague of Doves* with *The Round House*, transporting readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. It is an exquisitely told story of a boy on the cusp of manhood who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever transforms his family.
Riveting and suspenseful, arguably the most accessible novel to date from the creator of *Love Medicine*, *The Beet Queen*, and *The Bingo Palace*, Erdrich's *The Round House* is a page-turning masterpiece of literary fiction—at once a powerful coming-of-age story, a mystery, and a tender, moving novel of family, history, and culture

Rules of magic, The
Alice Hoffman

LITERARY FICTION
400pp; Pub 2018

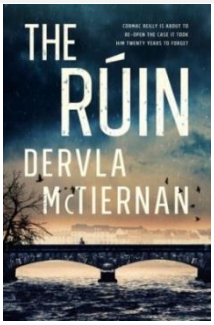


For the Owens family, love is a curse that began in 1620, when Maria Owens was charged with witchery for loving the wrong man.

Hundreds of years later, in New York City at the cusp of the sixties, when the whole world is about to change, Susanna Owens knows that her three children are dangerously unique. Difficult Franny, with skin as pale as milk and blood red hair, shy and beautiful Jet, who can read other people's thoughts, and charismatic Vincent, who began looking for trouble on the day he could walk.

Ruin, The
Dervla McTiernan

CRIME/MYSTERY
IRISH FICTION
400pp; Pub 2018

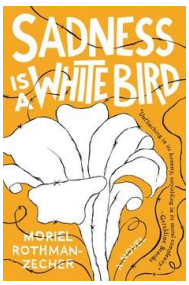


It's been twenty years since Cormac Reilly discovered the body of Hilaria Blake in her crumbling Georgian home. But he's never forgotten the two children she left behind...

When Aisling Conroy's boyfriend Jack is found in the freezing black waters of the river Corrib, the police tell her it was suicide. A surgical resident, she throws herself into study and work, trying to forget--until Jack's sister Maude shows up. Maude suspects foul play, and she is determined to prove it. This unsettling small-town noir draws us deep into the dark heart of Ireland, where corruption, desperation, and crime run rife. A gritty look at trust and betrayal where the written law isn't the only one, *The Ruin* asks who will protect you when the authorities can't--or won't.

Sadness is a white bird
Moriel Rothman-Zecher

CONTEMPORARY FICTION
256pp; Pub 2018



When Jonathan moves back to Israel after high school, he is eager to join the army and defend the Jewish state that his grandfather helped establish. But Jonathan is also conflicted about the possibility of having to monitor the occupied Palestinian territories, a concern that only grows more urgent when he meets Nimreen and Laith, the twin daughter and son of his mother's friend.
From that winter morning on, the three become inseparable, caught in a whirlwind of passion and connection. Jonathan is forced to confront the suffering of his Palestinian friends and their families under Israeli rule, leading him to question his loyalties. As he is pulled in different directions, he must grapple with what it means to be just one person in an epic historical struggle with so much at stake. And then that fateful day arrives, the one that lands Jonathan in prison and changes all three lives forever.

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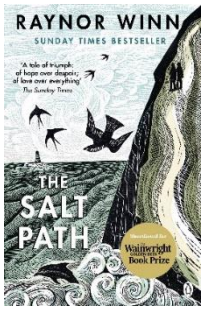
BOOK CLUB

Salt path, The
Raynor Winn

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR
304pp; Pub 2019



Just days after Raynor learns that Moth, her husband of 32 years is terminally ill, their home is taken away and they lose their livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they make the brave and impulsive decision to walk the 630 miles of the sea-swept South West Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset via Devon and Cornwall. Carrying only the essentials for survival on their backs, together they live wild in the ancient, weathered landscape of cliffs, sea and sky. Yet through every step, every encounter, and every test along the way, their walk becomes a remarkable journey.

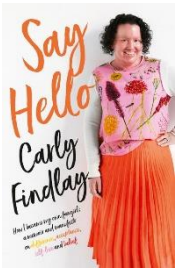
Sarah Thornhill
Kate Grenville

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
307pp Pub 2011

Sarah Thornhill is the youngest child of William Thornhill, convict-turned-landowner on the Hawkesbury River. She grows up in the fine house her father is so proud of, a strong-willed young woman who's certain where her future lies. She's known Jack Langland since she was a child, and always loved him. But the past is waiting in ambush with its dark legacy. There's a secret in Sarah's family, a piece of the past kept hidden from the world and from her. A secret Jack can't live with...

Say hello
Carly Findlay

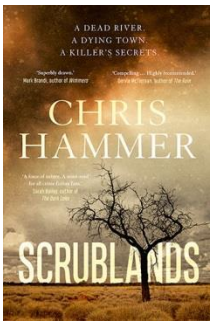
BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR
336pp; Pub 2019



A forthright, honest and rousingly triumphant memoir from a woman who has to live with a highly visible different appearance due to a rare skin condition. Say hello to Carly.
'In fairytales,the characters who look different are often cas tas the villain or monsters. It's only when they shed their unconventional skin that they are seen as "good" or less frightening. There are very few stories where the character that looks different is the hero of the story ... I've been the hero of my story - telling it on my own terms, proud about my facial difference and disability, not wanting a cure for my rare, severe and sometimes confronting skin condition, and knowing that I am beautiful even though I don't have beauty privilege.'

Scrublands
Chris Hammer

CRIME & MYSTERY
496pp; Pub 2018



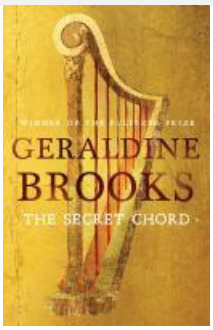
Set in a fictional Riverina town at the height of a devastating drought, *Scrublands* is one of the most powerful, compelling and original crime novels to be written in Australia.

northern beaches council

BOOK CLUB

Secret chord, The
Geraldine Brooks

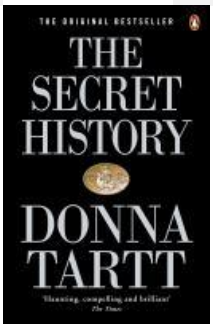
HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
386pp; Pub 2015



This novel traces the arc of King David's journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.

Secret history, The
Donna Tartt

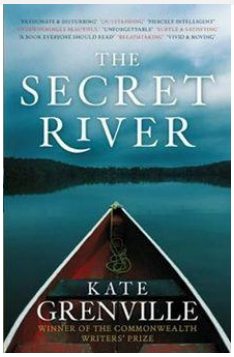
CONTEMPORARY
659pp; Orig Pub 1992



A misfit at an exclusive New England college, Richard finds kindred spirits in the five eccentric students of his ancient Greek class. But his new friends have a horrific secret. When blackmail and violence threaten to blow their privileged lives apart, they drag Richard into the nightmare that engulfs them. And soon they enter a terrifying heart of darkness from which they may never return.

Secret river, The
Kate Grenville

HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
ABIA BOOK OF THE YEAR & COMMONWEALTH WRITERS PRIZE
334pp Pub 2005



After a childhood of poverty and petty crime in the slums of London, William Thornhill is transported to New South Wales for the term of his natural life. With his wife Sal and children in tow, he arrives in a harsh land that feels at first like a death sentence. But among the convicts there is a whisper that freedom can be bought, an opportunity to start afresh. As Thornhill stakes his claim on a patch of ground by the Hawkesbury River, the battle lines between the old and new inhabitants are drawn.

Secrets she keeps, The
Michael Robotham

PSCYHOLOGICAL THRILLER
AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR
436pp Pub 2017

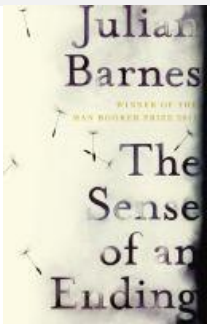
Everyone has an idea of what their perfect life is. For Agatha, it's Meghan Shaughnessy's. These two women from vastly different backgrounds have one thing in common - a dangerous secret that could destroy everything they hold dear. Both will risk everything to hide the truth, but their worlds are about to collide in a shocking act that cannot be undone.

northern beaches council

BOOK CLUB

Sense of an ending, The
Julian Barnes

CONTEMPORARY
Man Booker Prize Winner 2011
pp; Pub 2011



Tony Webster and his clique first met Adrian Finn at school. Sex-hungry and book-hungry, they would navigate the girl-less sixth form together, trading in affectations, in-jokes, rumour and wit. Maybe Adrian was a little more serious than the others, certainly more intelligent, but they all swore to stay friends for life. Now Tony is retired and he's certain he never tried to hurt anybody. But memory is imperfect as a lawyer's letter is about to prove.

Shark Drunk
Morten Stroksnes

MEMOIR
NON-FICTION
320pp; Pub 2018

Shark Drunk is, in part, the tale of two men in a very small boat on the trail of a very big fish. It is also a story of obsession, enchantment and adventure. A love song to the sea, in all its mystery, hardship, wonder and life-giving majesty.
In the great depths surrounding the remote Lofoten islands in Norway lives the Greenland shark. Twenty-six feet in length and weighing more than a tonne, it can live for 200 years. Its fluorescent green, parasite-covered eyes are said to hypnotise its prey, and its meat is so riddled with poison that, when consumed, it sends people into a hallucinatory trance.
Armed with little more than their wits and a tiny rubber boat, Morten Strøksnes and his friend Hugo set out in pursuit of this enigmatic creature. Together, they tackle existential questions, experience the best and worst nature can throw at them, and explore the astonishing life teeming at the ocean's depths.

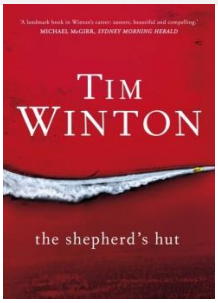
Sheila: The Australian beauty who bewitched British society
Robert Wainwright

MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
AUSTRALIAN
410pp Pub 2014

Sheila wedded earls and barons, befriended literary figures and movie stars, bedded a future king, was feted by London and New York society for forty years and when she died was a Russian princess. Vivacious, confident and striking, Sheila Chisholm. An extraordinary woman unknown to most Australians, Sheila is a spellbinding story of a unique time and a place and an utterly fascinating life.

Shepherd's hut, The
Tim Winton

Australian Fiction
Survival
266pp; Pub 2018



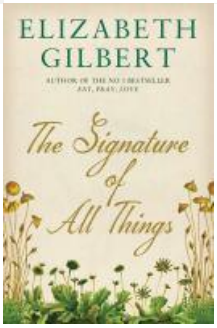
A rifle-shot of a novel – crisp, fast, shocking – *The Shepherd's Hut* is an urgent masterpiece about solitude, unlikely friendship, and the raw business of survival.

northern beaches council

BOOK CLUB

Signature of all things, The
Elizabeth Gilbert

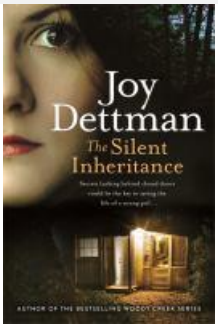
HISTORICAL FICTION
501pp; Pub 2013



Spanning much of the 18th and 19th centuries, the novel follows the fortunes of the extraordinary Whittaker family as led by the enterprising Henry Whittaker who eventually becoming the richest man in Philadelphia. Born in 1800, Henry's daughter, Alma, ultimately becomes a botanist of considerable gifts herself. The story is peopled with unforgettable characters: missionaries, abolitionists, adventurers, astronomers, sea captains, geniuses, and the quite mad.

Silent inheritance, The
Joy Dettman

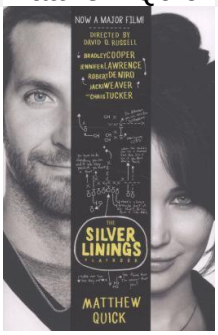
MYSTERY
AUSTRALIAN
405pp; Pub 2016



Sarah Carter, mother of twelve-year-old Marni, is raising her daughter alone in a small granny flat in suburban Melbourne. A serial killer, dubbed The Freeway Killer, is headline news and when Marni's classmate is abducted from the mall where Sarah and Marni shop, their city no longer feels safe.

Silver linings playbook, The
Matthew Quick

CONTEMPORARY
289pp; Orig Pub 2009



Pat Peoples knows that life doesn't always go according to plan, but he's determined to get his back on track. After a stint in a psychiatric hospital, Pat is staying with his parents and trying to live according to his new philosophy: get fit, be nice and always look for the silver lining. Most importantly, Pat is determined to be reconciled with his wife Nikki. Pat's parents just want to protect him so he can get back on his feet, but when Pat befriends the mysterious Tiffany, the secrets they've been keeping from him threaten to come out.

Small great things
Jodi Picoult

CONTEMPORARY
470pp; Pub 2016

Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?

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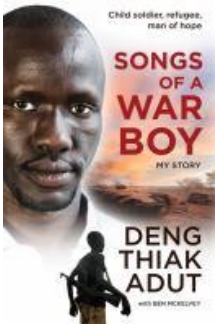
BOOK CLUB

Songs of a war boy: My story
Deng Thiak Adut

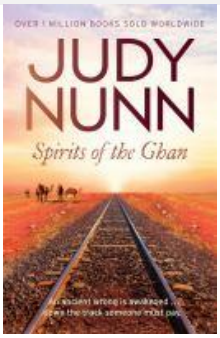
MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
294pp; Pub 2016



Deng Adut's family were farmers in South Sudan when a brutal civil war altered his life forever. At six years old, his mother was told she had to give him up to fight. At the age most Australian children are starting school, Deng was conscripted into the Sudan People's Liberation Army. He began a harsh, relentless military training that saw this young boy trained to use an AK-47 and sent into battle. He lost the right to be a child.

Spirits of the Ghan
Judy Nunn

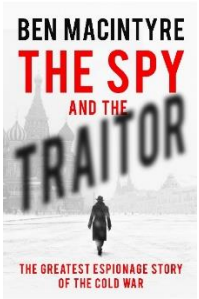
CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
381pp; Pub 2015



It is 2001 and a century-old dream is about to be realised in the Red Centre of Australia: the completion of the mighty Ghan railway that will finally link Adelaide with the Top End. Much of the construction of the final leg between Alice Springs and Darwin will cross Aboriginal land. Hired as a negotiator, Jessica Manning must walk a delicate line to reassure the Elders their sacred sites will be protected. It's not easy to keep the peace when Matthew Witherton and his survey team are quite literally blasting through the timeless land. When the paths of Jessica and Matthew cross, their respective cultures collide to reveal a mystery. An ancient wrong is awakened and calls hauntingly across the vastness of the outback...

Spy and the traitor, The
Ben Macintyre

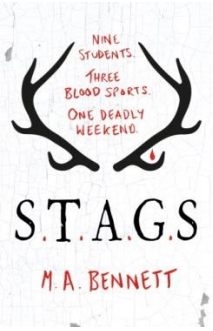
NON FICTION
366pp; Pub 2018



On a warm July evening in 1985, a middle-aged man stood on the pavement of a busy avenue in the heart of Moscow, holding a plastic carrier bag. In his grey suit and tie, he looked like any other Soviet citizen. The bag alone was mildly conspicuous, printed with the red logo of Safeway, the British supermarket. The man was a spy. A senior KGB officer, for more than a decade he had supplied his British spymasters with a stream of priceless secrets from deep within the Soviet intelligence machine. No spy had done more to damage the KGB. The Safeway bag was a signal: to activate his escape plan to be smuggled out of Soviet Russia. So began one of the boldest and most extraordinary episodes in the history of spying. Ben Macintyre reveals a tale of espionage, betrayal and raw courage that changed the course of the Cold War forever . . .

S.T.A.G.S
M.A. Bennett

YOUNG ADULT
SURVIVAL
BOARDING SCHOOL
304pp; Pub 2017



Nine students. Three blood sports. One deadly weekend. A twisting thriller for fans of gothic literature and *The Hunger Games*.

northern beaches council

BOOK CLUB

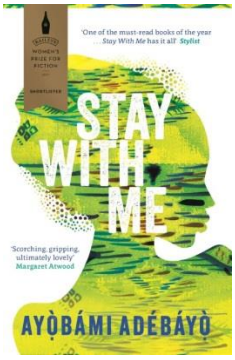
Stars are fire, The
Anita Shreve

CONTEMPORARY
241pp; Pub 2017

October 1947. After a summer long drought, fires break out all along the Maine coast and are soon racing out of control. Five months pregnant, Grace Holland is left alone to protect her two toddlers when her husband, Gene, joins the volunteer firefighters. Along with her best friend, Rosie, and Rosie's two young children, Grace watches helplessly as their houses burn to the ground, the flames finally forcing them all into the ocean as a last resort. Awaiting news of their husbands' fate, facing an uncertain future in a town that no longer exists, Grace discovers joys and triumphs she could never have expected her narrow life with Gene could contain.

Stay with Me
Ayòbámi Adébáyò

WOMEN'S FICTION
LITERARY FICTION
272pp; Pub 2018

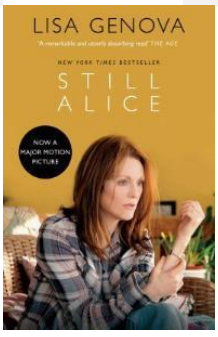


Yejide is hoping for a miracle, for a child. It is all her husband wants, all her mother-in-law wants, and she has tried everything. But when her relatives insist upon a new wife, it is too much for Yejide to bear.

Unravelling against the social and political turbulence of 1980s Nigeria, *Stay With Me* is a story of the fragility of married love, the undoing of family, the power of grief, and the all-consuming bonds of motherhood. It is a tale about the desperate attempts we make to save ourselves, and those we love, from heartbreak.

Still Alice
Lisa Genova

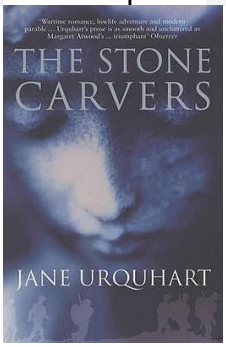
CONTEMPORARY
292pp; Pub 2007



Alice Howland is proud of the life she worked so hard to build. At fifty years old, she's a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard and a world-renowned expert in linguistics with a successful husband and three grown children. When she becomes increasingly disoriented and forgetful, a tragic diagnosis changes her life--and her relationship with her family and the world--forever.

Stone carvers, The
Jane Urquhart

HISTORICAL FICTION
392pp; Pub 2001



In 1867 Pater Archangel Gstir is sent by God to the Canadian wilds. Soon the backwoods are transformed into a parish and Joseph Becker, a woodcarver, is brought together with his future wife. Decades later when an architect plans a memorial to the Canadian dead in France, their grandchild Klara must use her family skills - to carve, and to create.

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BOOK CLUB

Stoner
John Williams

CLASSIC
278pp; Orig Pub 1965

William Stoner enters the University of Missouri at nineteen to study agriculture. A seminar on English literature changes his life, and he never returns to work on his father's farm. Stoner becomes a teacher. He marries the wrong woman. His life is quiet, and after his death his colleagues remember him rarely. Yet with truthfulness, compassion and intense power, this novel uncovers a story of universal value. "Stoner" tells of the conflicts, defeats and victories of the human race that pass unrecorded by history, and reclaims the significance of an individual life.

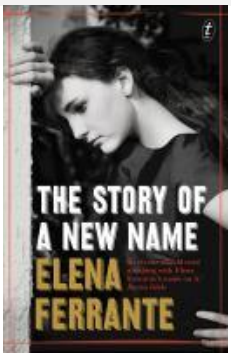
Story of the lost child, The
Elena Ferrante

HISTORICAL FICTION
473pp; Pub 2015

Book 4 of The Neapolitan novels
The Story of the Lost Child is the dazzling finale in the saga of two women: the spirited, bookish Elena and the fiery Lila. Their tumultuous friendship, formed when they were children in Naples, has always been at the heart of their lives. Elena, now a published writer, is married with three daughters. She has come back to Naples to be with the man she has always loved. Lila is a successful entrepreneur and a mother, too, but has never managed to escape the stifling neighbourhood where she grew up.

Story of a new name, The
Elena Ferrante

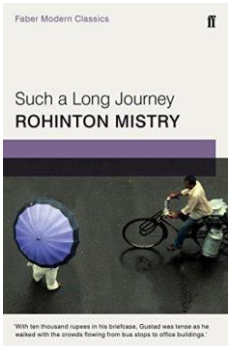
HISTORICAL FICTION
471pp; Pub 2012



Book 2 of The Neapolitan novels
The Story of a New Name is an extraordinary novel about two young women, Lila and Elena, growing up in Naples in the early 1960s. At sixteen Lila marries the shopkeeper Stefano. She is filled with pleasure at her new wealth, and horror at the life she has chosen.

Such a long journey
Rohinton Mistry

LITERARY FICTION
339pp; Pub 1991



Such a Long Journey is set in Bombay against the backdrop of war in the Indian subcontinent and the birth of Bangladesh, telling the story of the peculiar way in which the conflict impinges on the lives of Gustad Noble, an ordinary man, and his family.

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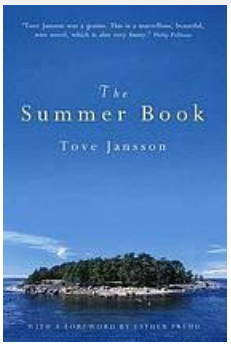
BOOK CLUB

Summer book, The
Tove Jansson

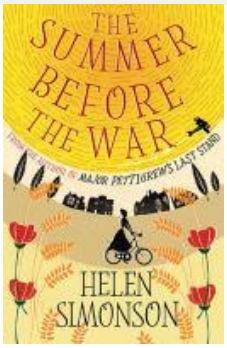
CONTEMPORARY
172pp; Orig Pub 1974



An elderly artist and her six-year-old granddaughter while away a summer together on a tiny island in the gulf of Finland. Gradually, the two learn to adjust to each other's fears, whims and yearnings for independence, and a fierce yet understated love emerges - one that encompasses not only the summer inhabitants but the island itself.

Summer before the war, The
Helen Simonson

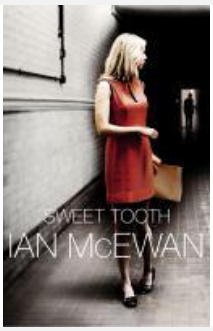
HISTORICAL FICTION
585pp; Pub 2016



East Sussex, 1914. It's the end of England's idyllic Edwardian summer and Hugh Grange, down from his medical studies, is visiting his Aunt Agatha, who lives with her husband in the pretty coastal town of Rye. Agatha's husband works in the Foreign Office, and she is certain he will ensure that the recent sabre rattling over the Balkans won't come to anything. And Agatha has more immediate concerns; she has just risked her carefully built reputation by pushing for the appointment of a woman to replace the Latin master...

Sweet tooth
Ian McEwan

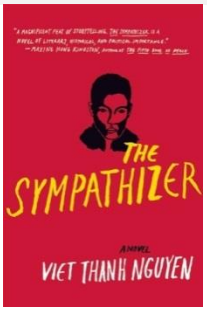
CONTEMPORARY
320pp; Pub 2012



Britain, 1972. Operation Sweet Tooth: Serena Frome, a bishop's daughter now turned spy, is sent on a secret mission to charm Tom Haley, a promising young writer. First she loves his stories, then she begins to love the man. Can she maintain the fiction of her undercover life?

Sympathizer, The
Viet Thanh Nguyen

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER 2016
VIETNAM WAR FICTION
371pp; Pub 2015



A profound, startling, and beautifully crafted debut novel, *The Sympathizer* is the story of a man of two minds, someone whose political beliefs clash with his individual loyalties. In dialogue with but diametrically opposed to the narratives of the Vietnam War that have preceded it, this novel offers an important and unfamiliar new perspective on the war: that of a conflicted communist sympathizer.

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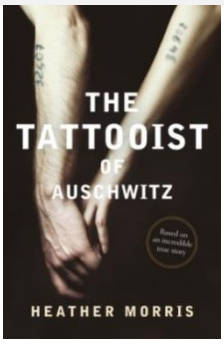
BOOK CLUB

Tattooist of Auschwitz, The
Heather Morris

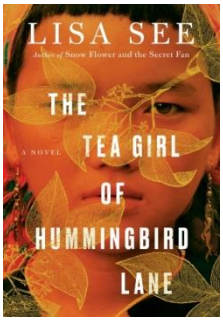
AUSTRALIAN FICTION
POST-WAR FICTION
228pp; Pub 2018



This novel is based on the true story of Lale and Gita Sokolov, two Slovakian Jews, who survived Auschwitz and eventually made their home in Australia. In that terrible place, Lale was given the job of tattooing the prisoners marked for survival - literally scratching numbers into his fellow victims' arms in indelible ink to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust. Lale used the infinitesimal freedom of movement that this position awarded him to exchange jewels and money taken from murdered Jews for food to keep others alive. If he had been caught he would have been killed; many owed him their survival.

Tea girl of Hummingbird Lane, The
Lisa See

CHINA - TEA TRADE - FICTION
IDENTITY
MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS FICTION
371pp; Pub 2017

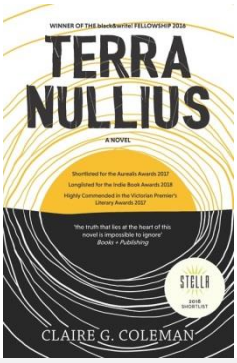


In this stirring coming-of-age novel, a young Chinese woman finds purpose, passion, and the key to a new life in the tea-growing traditions of her ancestors.

A story of family, identity, and motherhood, Lisa See's *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* is a moving journey through a little-known world.

Terra nullius
Claire G. Coleman

CONTEMPORARY
294pp; Pub 2017



In the near future Australia is about to experience colonisation once more. What have we learned from our past? A daring debut novel from the winner of the 2016 black&write! writing fellowship.

Testament of youth
Vera Brittain

MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
612pp; Pub 2014

In 1914 Vera Brittain was eighteen and, as war was declared, she was preparing to study at Oxford. Four years later her life - and the life of her whole generation - had changed in a way that was unimaginable in the tranquil pre-war era. Brittain's account of how she survived the period; how she lost the man she loved; how she nursed the wounded and how she emerged into an altered world is a passionate record of a lost generation.

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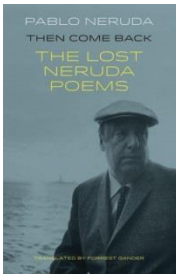
BOOK CLUB

Then come back
Pablo Neruda

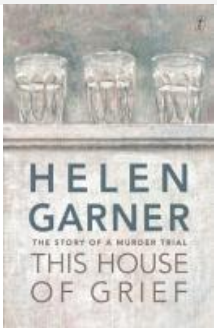
POETRY
192pp; Pub 2016



Pablo Neruda's lost poems—recently discovered in his archive to the delight of readers and scholars—comprise this remarkable and essential volume. Originally composed on napkins, playbills, receipts, and notebooks, Neruda's lost poems are full of eros and heartache, complex wordplay and deep wonder. Presented with the Spanish text, full-color reproductions of handwritten poems, and dynamic English translations, *Then Come Back: The Lost Neruda Poems* simultaneously completes and advances the oeuvre of the world's most beloved poet.

This house of grief: the story of a murder trial
Helen Garner

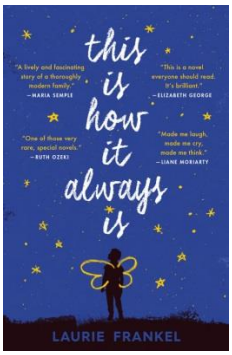
NON FICTION
AUSTRALIAN
300pp; Pub 2014



On the evening of 4 September 2005, Father's Day, Robert Farquharson, a separated husband, was driving his three sons home to their mother, Cindy, when his car left the road and plunged into a dam. The boys, aged ten, seven and two, drowned. Was this an act of revenge or a tragic accident? The court case became Helen Garner's obsession. She followed it on its protracted course until the final verdict.

This is how it always is
Laurie Frankel

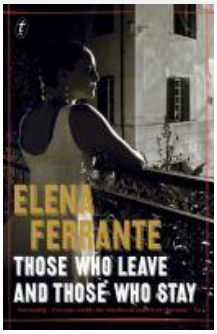
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
472pp; Pub 2017



Rosie and Penn always wanted a daughter. Four sons later, they decide to try one last time - and their beautiful little boy Claude is born. Life continues happily for this big, loving family until the day when Claude says that, when he grows up, he wants to be a girl. As far as Rosie and Penn are concerned, bright, funny and wonderful Claude can be whoever he or she wants. But as problems begin at school and in the community, the family faces a seemingly impossible dilemma: should Claude change, or should they and Claude try to change the world?

Those who leave and those who stay
Elena Ferrante

HISTORICAL FICTION
418pp; Pub 2014



Book 3 of The Neapolitan novels
Lila and Elena are now in their thirties. Lila, married at sixteen, has left her husband and the comforts of her marriage, and has now joined the workforce. Elena has left the neighbourhood in Naples, been to university, and published a successful novel, all of which has brought her into a wealthier, more cultured world. Both women are seizing opportunities to flee a life of poverty, ignorance and submission. Yet they are still very much bound to each other by an unbreakable bond.

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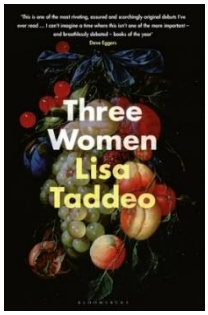
BOOK CLUB

Three women
Lisa Taddeo

NON FICTION
306pp; Pub 2019

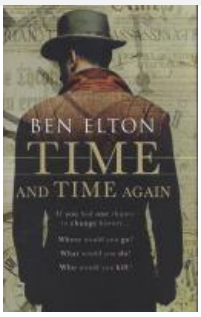


Desire as we've never seen it before: a riveting true story about the sex lives of three real American women, based on nearly a decade of reporting.

It thrills us and torments us. It controls our thoughts, destroys our lives, and it's all we live for. Yet we almost never speak of it. And as a buried force in our lives, desire remains largely unexplored—until now. Over the past eight years, journalist Lisa Taddeo has driven across the country six times to embed herself with ordinary women from different regions and backgrounds. The result, *Three Women*, is the deepest nonfiction portrait of desire ever written and one of the most anticipated books of the year.

Time and time again
Ben Elton

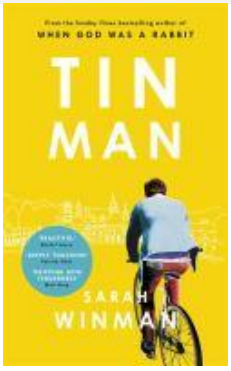
HISTORICAL
SCIENCE FICTION
386pp; Pub 2014



It's the 1st of June 1914 and Hugh Stanton, ex-soldier and celebrated adventurer is quite literally the loneliest man on earth. No one he has ever known or loved has been born yet. Perhaps now they never will be. Stanton knows that a great and terrible war is coming. A collective suicidal madness that will destroy European civilization and bring misery to millions in the century to come. He knows this because, for him, that century is already history. Somehow he must change that history. He must prevent the war. A war that will begin with a single bullet. But can a single bullet truly corrupt an entire century? And, if so, could another single bullet save it?

Tin man
Sarah Winman

CONTEMPORARY
195pp; Pub 2017

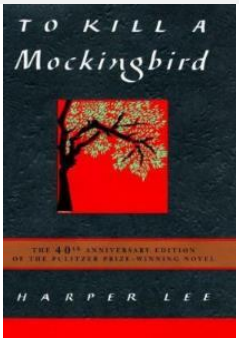


It begins with a painting won in a raffle: fifteen sunflowers, hung on the wall by a woman who believes that men and boys are capable of beautiful things.

And then there are two boys, Ellis and Michael,
who are inseparable.
And the boys become men,
and then Annie walks into their lives,
and it changes nothing and everything.

To kill a mockingbird
Harper Lee

CLASSIC
Pulitzer Prize winner 1961
324pp; Orig Pub 1960



'Shoot all the Bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a Mockingbird.' Lawyer Atticus Finch gives this advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much...

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BOOK CLUB

Too close to home
Georgia Blain

CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN
293pp; Pub 2011

Freya has been the only woman amongst her friends to have a child. As a number of these women approach 40 they too are wanting children and fearing they have left it too late. An Aboriginal family, the father, Shane, being an old friend of Matt's, has moved in up the road with a different approach to parenting. Watching Shane's more laissez faire approach to life makes them start to question their own settled approach. There are ace riots and a 17-year-old boy that may or may not be the son of Mark from a brief fling 18 years ago. Freya is in turmoil runs to a man who is actively running away from his own responsibilities.

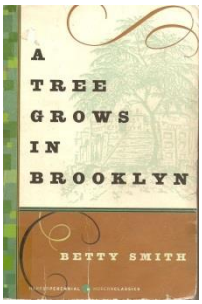
Travelling to infinity: the true story behind *The theory of everything*
Jane Hawking

MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
487pp; Pub 2014

Stephen Hawking's first wife, Jane, relates the inside story of their extraordinary marriage. As Stephen's academic renown soared, his body was collapsing under the assaults of motor neurone disease, and Jane's candid account of trying to balance his 24-hour care with the needs of their growing family will be inspirational to anyone dealing with family illness. The marriage finally ends in a high-profile meltdown, with Stephen leaving Jane for one of his nurses, while Jane goes on to marry an old family friend.

Tree grows in Brooklyn, A
Betty Smith

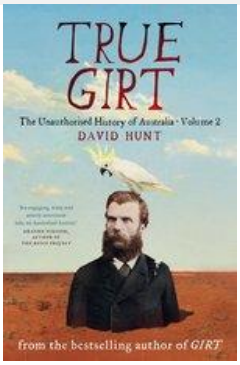
CLASSIC FICTION
493pp; Pub 1943



Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century.

True Girt
David Hunt

AUSTRALIAN HUMOUR
PIONEER LIFE AUSTRALIA
HISTORY
433pp; Pub 2016



First there was Girt. Now comes True Girt In this side-splitting sequel to his best-selling history, David Hunt transports us to the Australian frontier. This was the Wild South, home to hardy pioneers, gun-slinging bushrangers, directionally challenged explorers, nervous indigenous people, Caroline Chisholm and sheep. Lots of sheep.

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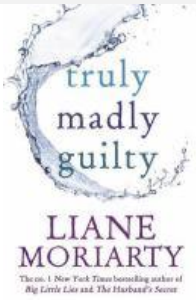
BOOK CLUB

Truly, madly, guilty
Liane Moriarty

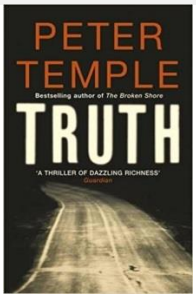
CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIAN
511pp; Pub 2016



Clementine is haunted by regret. It was just a barbeque. They did not even know their hosts that well, they were friends of friends. They could so easily have said no. But she and her husband Sam said yes, and now they can never change what they did and did not do that Sunday afternoon. Six responsible adults. Three cute kids. One playful dog. It is an ordinary weekend in the suburbs. What could possibly go wrong?

Truth
Peter Temple

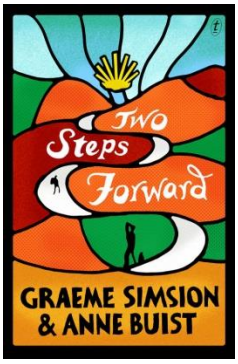
AUSTRALIAN
MILES FRANKLIN AWARD WINNER
DETECTIVE FICTION
387pp; Pub 2010



Truth is a novel about a man, a family, a city.
It is about violence, murder, love, corruption, honour and deceit.
And it is about truth

Two steps forward
Graeme Simsion & Anne Buist

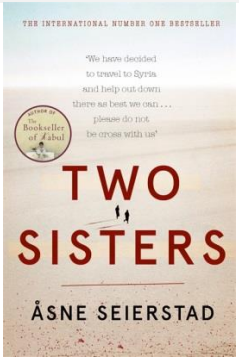
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
368pp; Pub 2018



Each looking to make a new start, Zoe and Martin set out independently to walk two thousand kilometres from Cluny in France to Santiago in Spain, in the footsteps of pilgrims who have walked the Camino—The Way—for centuries. The Camino changes you, it's said. It's a chance to find a new version of yourself. But will these two very different people find each other?

Two Sisters
Åsne Seierstad

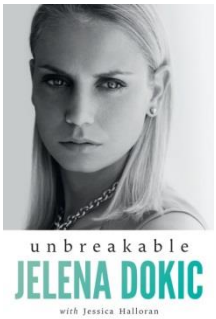
NON-FICTION
THRILLER
455pp; Pub 2018



The riveting story of two sisters' journey to the Islamic State and the father who tries to bring them home. Asne Seierstad puts the problem of radicalization into painfully human terms, using instant messages and other primary sources to reconstruct a family's crisis from the inside. Eventually, she takes us into the hellscape of the Syrian civil war, as Sadiq risks his life in pursuit of his daughters, refusing to let them disappear into the maelstrom. This is a relentless thriller and a feat of reporting with profound lessons about belief, extremism, and the meaning of devotion.

Unbreakable
Jelena Dokic with Jessica Halloran

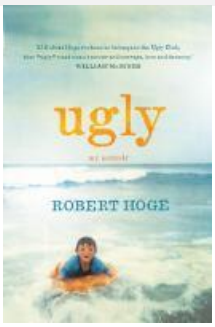
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
310pp; Pub 2017



This is a story of Jelena Dokic's survival. How she survived as a refugee, twice. How she survived on the tennis court to become world No. 4. But, most importantly, how she survived her father, Damir Dokic, the tennis dad from hell.

Ugly: My memoir
Robert Hoge

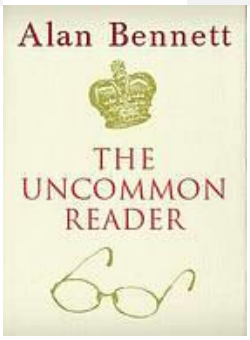
MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
AUSTRALIAN
304pp; Pub 2013



Robert Hoge was born with a giant tumour on his forehead, severely distorted facial features and legs that were twisted and useless. His mother refused to look at her son, let alone bring him home. But home he went, to a life that, against the odds, was filled with joy, optimism and boyhood naughtiness. Ugly is Robert's account of his life, from the time of his birth to the arrival of his own daughter.

Uncommon reader
Alan Bennett

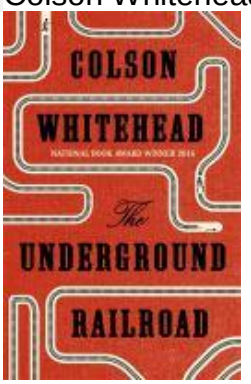
CONTEMPORARY
124pp; Pub 2007



The Queen of England comes across a travelling library and ends up taking out a novel. One read leads to another and a passion awakes, resulting in a decline of her public duties.

Underground railroad, The
Colson Whitehead

HISTORICAL FICTION
306pp; Pub 2016



Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hellish for all the slaves, but Cora is an outcast even among her fellow Africans, and she is coming into womanhood; even greater pain awaits. Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, and they plot their escape. Matters do not go as planned - Cora kills a young white boy who tries to capture her - but they manage to find a station and head north. In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is not a metaphor - a secret network of tracks and tunnels has been built beneath the Southern soil.

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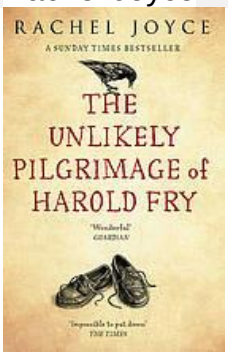
BOOK CLUB

Unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry, The
Rachel Joyce

CONTEMPORARY
295pp; Pub 2012



When Harold Fry leaves home one morning to post a letter, with his wife hoovering upstairs, he has no idea that he is about to walk from one end of the country to the other. He has no hiking boots or map, let alone a compass, waterproof or mobile phone. All he knows is that he must keep walking. To save someone else's life.

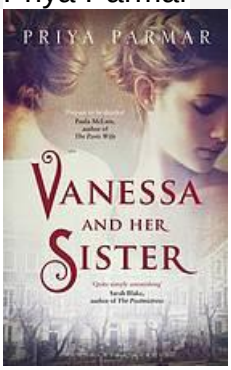
Unsheltered
Barbara Kingsolver

HISTORICAL FICTION
464pp; Pub 2018

Unsheltered is the compulsively readable story of two families, in two centuries, who live at the corner of Sixth and Plum in Vineland, New Jersey, navigating what seems to be the end of the world as they know it. With history as their tantalizing canvas, these characters paint a startlingly relevant portrait of life in precarious times when the foundations of the past have failed to prepare us for the future.

Vanessa and her sister
Priya Parmar

HISTORICAL FICTION
352pp; Pub 2015



London, 1905. The city is alight with change and the Stephen siblings are at the forefront. Vanessa, Virginia, Thoby and Adrian are leaving behind their childhood home and taking a house in the leafy heart of avant-garde Bloomsbury. There they bring together a glittering circle of brilliant, artistic friends who will come to be known as the legendary Bloomsbury Group. Together, this sparkling coterie of artists and intellectuals throw away convention and embrace the wild freedom of being young, single bohemians in London.

Vanishing act of Esme Lennox, The
Maggie O'Farrell

HISTORICAL FICTION
MYSTERY
277pp; Pub 2007

Set between the 1930s and the present, Maggie O'Farrell's new novel is the story of Esme, a woman edited out of her family's history, and of the secrets that come to light when, sixty years later, she is released from care, and a young woman, Iris, discovers the great aunt she never knew she had.

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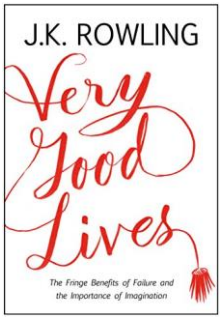
BOOK CLUB

Very good lives
J. K. Rowling

SELF-HELP
80pp; Pub 2015



In 2008, J.K. Rowling delivered a deeply affecting commencement speech at Harvard University. Now published for the first time in book form, Very good lives presents J.K. Rowling's words of wisdom for anyone at a turning point in life. How can we embrace failure? And how can we use our imagination to better both ourselves and others?

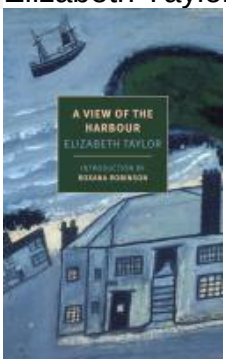
Victoria, the Queen
Julia Baird

NON FICTION
696pp; Pub 2016

A magnificent biography of Queen Victoria by International New York Times columnist Julia Baird. Drawing on previously unpublished papers, 'Victoria: The Queen' is a stunning new portrait of the real woman behind the myth - a story of love and heartbreak, of devotion and grief, of strength and resilience.

View of the harbour, A
Elizabeth Taylor

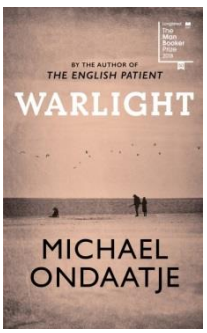
CONTEMPORARY
312pp; Pub 2015



Tory, recently divorced, is having an affair with her neighbor Robert, a doctor, whose wife, Beth, is Tory's best friend. Beth notices nothing - an author of melodramatic novels, she is too busy with them to mind her house or its inhabitants. But her daughter Prudence knows what is up and is appalled. Gossip spreads in the little community, and Taylor's view widens to take in a range of characters from senile, snoopy Mrs. Bracey; to a young, widowed proprietor of the local waxworks, Lily Wilson; to the would-be artist Bertram.

Warlight
Michael Ondaatje

LITERARY FICTION
304pp; Pub 2018



An elegiac, dreamlike novel set in post-WW2 London about memory, family secrets and lies, from the internationally acclaimed author of *The English Patient.*

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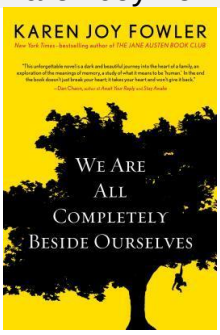
BOOK CLUB

We are all completely beside ourselves
Karen Joy Fowler

CONTEMPORARY
310pp; Pub 2013



Coming of age in middle America, eighteen-year-old Rosemary evaluates how her entire youth was defined by the presence and forced removal of an endearing chimpanzee who was secretly regarded as a family member and who Rosemary loved as a sister.

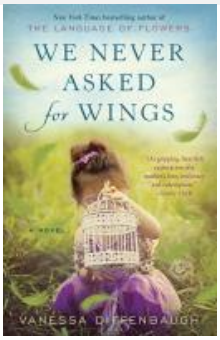
We need to talk about Kevin
Lionel Shriver

SUSPENSE / THRILLER
468pp; Orig Pub 2006

Two years ago, Eva Khatchadourian's son, Kevin, murdered seven of his fellow students, a cafeteria worker and a teacher. Now, in a series of letters to her absent husband, Eva recounts the story of how Kevin came to be Kevin. Fearing that her own shortcomings may have shaped what her son has become, she confesses to a deep, long-standing ambivalence about both motherhood in general and Kevin in particular. How much is her fault?

We never asked for wings
Vanessa Diffenbaugh

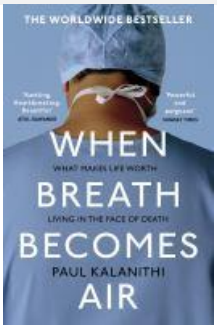
CONTEMPORARY
310pp; Pub 2016



For fourteen years, Letty Espinosa has worked three jobs around San Francisco to make ends meet while her mother raised her children--Alex, now fifteen, and Luna, six--in their tiny apartment on a forgotten spit of wetlands near the bay. But now Letty's parents are returning to Mexico, and Letty must step up and become a mother for the first time in her life. Navigating this new terrain is challenging for Letty, especially as Luna desperately misses her grandparents and Alex, who is falling in love with a classmate, is unwilling to give his mother a chance.

When breath becomes air
Paul Kalanithi

BIOGRAPHY / MEMOIR
228pp; Pub 2017



At the age of 36, on the verge of a completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi's health began to falter. He started losing weight and was wracked by waves of excruciating back pain. A CT scan confirmed what Paul, deep down, had suspected: he had stage four lung cancer. One day, he was a doctor making a living treating the dying, and the next, he was a patient struggling to live.

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BOOK CLUB

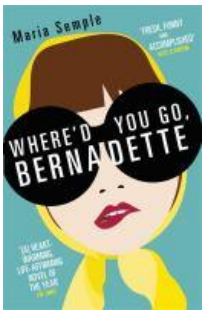
When the night comes
Favel Parrett

CONTEMPORARY
260pp; Pub 2014

Running away from the mainland was supposed to make their lives better. But, for Isla and her brother, their mother's sadness and the cold, damp greyness of Hobart's stone streets seeps into everything. Then, one morning, Isla sees a red ship. That colour lights her day. And when a sailor from the ship befriends her mother, he shares his stories with them all - of Antarctica, his home in Denmark and life onboard. Like the snow white petrels that survive in the harshest coldest place, this lonely girl at the bottom of the world will learn that it is possible to go anywhere, be anything. But she will also find out that it is just as easy to lose it all.

Where'd you go Bernadette?
Maria Semple

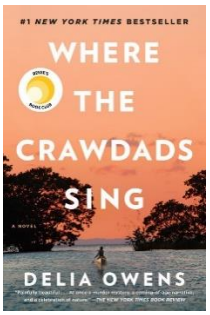
CONTEMPORARY
332pp; Pub 2013



Bernadette Fox is notorious. To Elgie Branch, a Microsoft wunderkind, she's his hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled wife. To fellow mothers at the school gate, she's a menace. To design experts, she's a revolutionary architect. And to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, quite simply, mum. Then Bernadette disappears.

Where the crawdads sing
Delia Owens

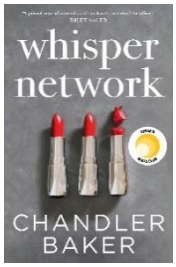
LITERARY FICTION
384pp; Pub 2019



For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life–until the unthinkable happens.

Whisper network
Chandler Baker

CONTEMPORARY FICTION
352pp; Pub 2019



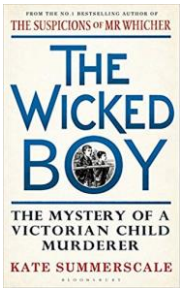
If only you'd listened to us, none of this would have happened.
Sloane, Ardie, Grace, and Rosalita have worked at Truviv, Inc. for years. The sudden death of Truviv's CEO means their boss, Ames, will likely take over the entire company. Each of the women has a different relationship with Ames, who has always been surrounded by whispers about how he treats women. Those whispers have been ignored, swept under the rug, hidden away by those in charge.
But the world has changed, and the women are watching this promotion differently. This time, when they find out Ames is making an inappropriate move on a colleague, they aren't willing to let it go. This time, they've decided enough is enough.
Sloane and her colleagues' decision to take a stand sets in motion a catastrophic shift in the office. Lies will be uncovered. Secrets will be exposed. And not everyone will survive.

northern beaches council

BOOK CLUB

Wicked boy, The
Kate Summerscale

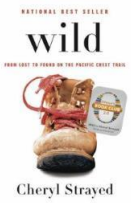
AWARD WINNER
NON-FICTION
400pp; Pub 2016



In The Wicked Boy, Kate Summerscale has uncovered a fascinating true story of murder and morality - it is not just a meticulous examination of a shocking Victorian case, but also a compelling account of its aftermath, and of man's capacity to overcome the past.

Wild: A journey from lost to found on the Pacific Crest Trail
Cheryl Strayed

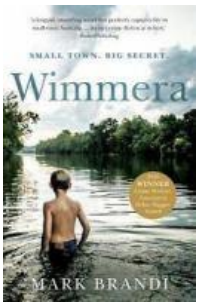
MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
315pp; Pub 2012



At twenty-six, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's rapid death from cancer, her family disbanded and her marriage crumbled. With nothing to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life: to walk eleven-hundred miles of the west coast of America - from the Mojave Desert, through California and Oregon, and into Washington state - and to do it alone. She had no experience of long-distance hiking and the journey was nothing more than a line on a map. But it held a promise - a promise of piecing together a life that lay in ruins at her feet.

Wimmera
Mark Brandi

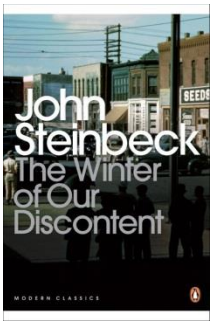
SUSPENSE / THRILLER
AUSTRALIAN
263pp; Pub 2017



In the long, hot summer of 1989, Ben and Fab are best friends. Growing up in a small country town, they spend their days playing cricket, yabbying in local dams, wanting a pair of Nike Air Maxes and not talking about how Fab's dad hits him or how the sudden death of Ben's next-door neighbour unsettled him. Almost teenagers, they already know some things are better left unsaid. Then a newcomer arrived in the Wimmera. Twenty years later, Fab is still stuck in town, going nowhere but hoping for somewhere better. Then a body is found in the river, and Fab can't ignore the past any more.

Winter of our discontent, The
John Steinbeck

CLASSIC
NOBEL PRIZE WINNER 1962
276pp; Orig Pub 1961



Ethan Allen Hawley has lost the acquisitive spirit of his wealthy and enterprising forebears, a long line of proud New England sea captains and Pilgrims. Scarred by failure, Ethan works as a grocery clerk in a store his family once owned. But his wife is restless and his teenage children troubled and hungry for the material comforts he cannot provide. Then a series of unusual events reignites Ethan's ambition, and he is pitched on to a bold course, where all scruples are put aside.

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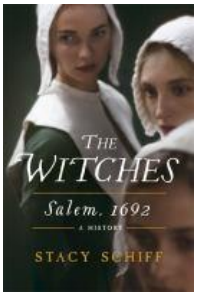
BOOK CLUB

Witches: Salem 1692, The
Stacy Schiff

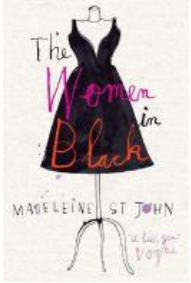
NONFICTION
498pp; Pub 2015



It began in 1692, over an exceptionally raw Massachusetts winter, when a minister's daughter started to scream and convulse. It ended less than a year later, but not before nineteen men and women had been hanged and an elderly man crushed to death. The panic spread quickly, involving the most educated men and prominent politicians in the colony. Neighbours accused neighbours, parents accused children, husbands accused wives, children accused their parents, and siblings each other. Vividly capturing the dark, unsettled atmosphere of seventeenth-century America, Stacy Schiff's magisterial history draws us into this anxious time.

Women in black, The
Madeline St John

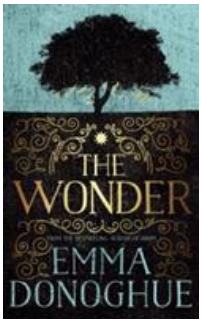
CLASSIC
HISTORICAL FICTION
AUSTRLAIAN
233pp; Pub 2010



Sydney in the late 1950s. On the second floor of the famous F.G. Goode department store, in Ladies' Cocktail Frocks, the women in black are girding themselves for the Christmas rush. Lisa is the new Sales Assistant (Temporary). Across the floor and beyond the arch, she is about to meet the glamorous Continental refugee, Magda, guardian of the rose-pink cave of Model Gowns.

Wonder, The
Emma Donoghue

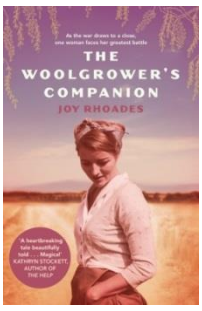
HISTORICAL FICTION
291pp; Pub 2016



An eleven-year-old girl stops eating, but remains miraculously alive and well. A nurse, sent to investigate whether she is a fraud, meets a journalist hungry for a story. Set in the Irish Midlands in the 1850s, The Wonder is inspired by numerous European and North American cases of 'fasting girls' between the sixteenth century and the twentieth is a psychological thriller about a child's murder threatening to happen in slow motion before our eyes. Pitting all the seductions of fundamentalism against sense and love, it is a searing examination of what nourishes us, body and soul.

Woolgrower's companion, The
Joy Rhoades

AUSTRALIAN FICTION
RURAL FICTION
410pp; Pub 2017



Set over ten tumultuous months in 1945, *The Woolgrower's Companion* is the gripping story of one woman's fight against all odds, and a sweeping tribute to Australia's landscape and its people.

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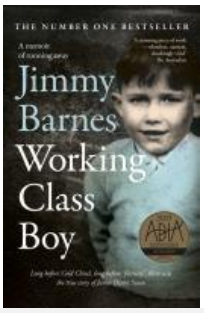
BOOK CLUB

Working class boy
Jimmy Barnes

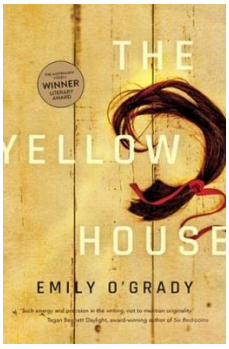
MEMOIR / BIOGRAPHY
AUSTRALIAN
372pp; Pub 2016



This is the story of how James Swan became Jimmy Barnes. Arriving in Australia in the Summer of 1962, things went from bad to worse for the Swan family -Dot, Jim and their six kids. The scramble to manage in the tough northern suburbs of Adelaide in the 60s would take its toll on the Swans as dwindling money, too much alcohol, and fraying tempers gave way to violence and despair. This is the story a family's collapse, but also a young boy's dream to escape the misery of the suburbs with a once-in-a-lifetime chance to join a rock n roll band and get out of town for good.

Yellow house, The
Emily O'Grady

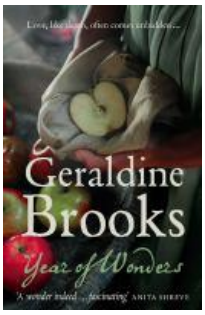
CRIME & MYSTERY
324pp; Pub 2018



Ten-year-old Cub lives with her parents, older brother Cassie, and twin brother Wally on a lonely property bordering an abandoned cattle farm and knackery. Their lives are shadowed by the infamous actions of her Granddad Les in his yellow weatherboard house, just over the fence. Although Les died twelve years ago, his notoriety has grown in Cub's lifetime and the local community have ostracised the whole family. When Cub's estranged aunt Helena and cousin Tilly move next door into the yellow house, the secrets the family want to keep buried begin to bubble to the surface. And having been kept in the dark about her grandfather's crimes, Cub is now forced to come to terms with her family's murky history.

Year of wonders
Geraldine Brooks

HISTORICAL FICTION
310pp; Pub 2002



When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated mountain village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of the plague year, 1666, as her fellow villagers make an extraordinary choice: convinced by a visionary young minister, they elect to quarantine themselves within the village boundaries to arrest the spread of the disease. But as death reaches into every household, faith frays. When the villagers turn from payers to murderous witch-hunting, Anna must confront the deaths of family members, the disintegration of her community, and the lure of illicit love. As she struggles to survive, a year of plague becomes instead an annus mirabilis, a 'year of wonders'

Z: A novel of Zelda Fitzgerald
Therese Fowler

HISTORICAL FICTION
375pp; Pub 2013

When beautiful, reckless Southern belle Zelda Sayre meets F. Scott Fitzgerald at a country club dance in 1918, she is seventeen years old and he is a young army lieutenant stationed in Alabama. Her father is deeply unimpressed. But after Scott sells his first novel Zelda optimistically boards a train north, to marry him and take the rest as it comes. What comes, here at the dawn of the Jazz Age, is unimagined attention and success and celebrity that will make Scott and Zelda legends in their own time.