

# BOOK CCINO

WINTER 2025 READING GUIDE

EDITION 11





{ 2025 so far }

# BEST-SELLERS

## FICTION

- 1. **Orbital** – Samantha Harvey
- 2. **Wild Dark Shore** – Charlotte McConaghey
- 3. **James** – Percival Everett
- 4. **The Inheritance** – Kate Horan
- 5. **One Hundred Years of Betty** – Debra Oswald
- 6. **Playground** – Richard Powers
- 7. **The Forgiven** – Laurence Osborne
- 8. **Time of the Child** – Niall Williams
- 9. **The Glassmaker** – Tracey Chevalier
- 10. **Precipice** – Robert Harris

## NON-FICTION

- 1. **The Let Them Theory** – Mel Robbins
- 2. **Memorial Days** – Geraldine Brooks
- 3. **We Are the Stars** – Gina Chick
- 4. **The Chairman’s Lounge** – Joe Aston
- 5. **38 Londres Street** – Philippe Sands
- 6. **Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks** – Yuval Noah Harari
- 7. **The Creative Act: A Way of Being** – Rick Rubin
- 8. **Searching for Charmian** – Suzanne Chick
- 9. **Unsettled: A Journey Through Time and Place** – Kate Grenville
- 10. **Creative Journal Writing** – Stephanie Dowrick

## KIDS/YOUNG ADULT

- 1. **Guinness World Records 2025**
- 2. **Costa’s Garden: Flowers** – Costa Georgiadis
- 3. **Sunrise on the Reaping (The Hunger Games)** – Suzanne Collins
- 4. **Hot Mess: Diary of a Wimpy Kid #19** – Jeff Kinney
- 5. **Hazel’s Treehouse** – Zanni Louise
- 6. **Magic Beach 35th Anniversary Edition** – Alison Lester
- 7. **All the Beautiful Things** – Katrina Nannestad
- 8. **The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse** – Charlie Mackesy
- 9. **The Completely Chaotic Christmas of Lottie Brooks #5** – Kate Kirby
- 10. **Where to Hide a Star** – Oliver Jeffers



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# WELCOME

## Hello Friends, Welcome to your 2025 Winter Reading Guide.

Let’s start with the good news. In perfect harmony we won a major award and we are preparing to give one!

### Bookseller of the Year Award

Sally was named 2025 Bookseller of the Year by BookPeople, the national organisation dedicated to keeping independent bookstores alive. It is wonderful recognition for the role booksellers play in our communities - sharing stories, building connections and stoking the intellectual fire.

### Official Sponsor of the Walkley Book Award

Bookoccino is the official sponsor of the 2025 Walkley Book Award, the ultimate recognition for journalistic writing. The award has particular meaning for our owner, Ray Bonner, a Pulitzer Prize winning former correspondent for the New York Times, an author and a fervent believer in the vigorous exchange of ideas. The Walkley Book Award will be announced in October. We can’t wait to share it with you.

### Independent Bookstores vs Amazon

Amazon hosted Prime Day recently, exhorting people to buy, buy, buy, including books at bargain prices. On the contrary, BookPeople believe that independent bookstores are ‘listeners who help you find a story that will resonate with you, that will teach you more about the world we live in or a story that can act as a gateway away from the world we live in. You can’t put a price on that’.

### Reading Rates in Decline

While the world’s largest online bookstore keeps growing, the number of people regularly reading is in dramatic decline. The 2025 Australia Reads report notes that ‘more than one in four adult Australians haven’t read or listened to a book in the past year’. What this means for our kids is alarming. It continues: ‘Today’s 15-year-olds are scoring at the literacy level expected of 14-year-olds two decades earlier’. In the US, literacy is at its lowest level in decades, encouraged by a president who in 2016 boasted to a Nevada rally that he “loves the poorly educated”.

We need to fight back, not only for literacy rates, but for a rich, varied, stimulating

experience of life. Reading is time without the ever present phone, a time for peace and expansion, a time to observe the soft sound of waves, gentle swing of hammock, warm radiance of fire, soft tapping of rain on the roof. Reading is a rewarding experience.

### Inside this Reading Guide

In this reading guide we celebrate our cover artist, Tim Schultz. It was a privilege to visit Tim and witness his thoughtful, playful, inquisitive intellect reflected in his impressive library.

Within you will find recommendations from Ray, Sally, Mary, Julia, Annie, Noah and Kati. We’ve had a good reading season and have plenty of recommendations for you.

### Our 2025 (so far) Bestsellers

The slow burn, word-of-mouth favourite *Orbital* takes #1 Fiction. Samantha Harvey was one of the star guests at this year’s Sydney Writers Festival.

Many bestselling writers have also been guests of Bookoccino’s events program. Charlotte McConaghey, author of #2 Fiction *Wild Dark Shore* was an impressive guest, articulating her storytelling process with exceptional eloquence. We celebrated *One Hundred Years of Betty* with the unbeatable double act of wife and husband Debra Oswald and Richard Glover (You will not find better people). We hit the jackpot with international human rights lawyer Philippe Sands, author of #6 bestseller *38 Londres Street*, interviewed by Richard Fidler. And who could forget Gina Chick and her mother Suzanne, uncovering Australian literary history with *Searching for Charmian*. To our very dear friend Geraldine Brooks, in #2 for Non-Fiction with *Memorial Days*: we salute you. A lyrical, poetic and uplifting must-read for anyone charting sudden and earth-shattering change. Sneak Preview: Geraldine will be with us in December this year.

Join our mailing list for updates.

### What’s on, What’s in store for Spring

Spring brings us a stellar season of author events. Kate Grenville kicks off September, followed by Amber Creswell Bell and Marian Wilkinson. In October bestselling author of *The Museum of Modern Love* Heather Rose joins us, and we celebrate Love Your Bookshop Day. In November you can join us for lunch with author and

actor Bryan Brown.

As we thaw out we’re looking to new novels by bestselling authors Trent Dalton, Madeleine Grey, Ian McEwan, Dan Brown, Miranda Darling and William Boyd. In Non-Fiction we can’t wait for Marian Wilkinson’s Quarterly Essay On Profit vs. Planet; Elizabeth Gilbert’s All the Way to the River; Evan Osnos’ The Haves and Have Yachts; and David Gelles’ biography of Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard

We have some great plans for Book Week August 16 – 23, and plenty of book ideas for Father’s Day. Lastly, something exciting is coming for Avalon this summer. We can’t tell you any more. But you can join our mailing list for all updates...

With best regards,

The Bookoccino Team

## CONTENTS

Best sellers. Inside front cover

Bookoccino team favourite reads. 4

Artist interview – Tim Schultz. 5

Fiction. 6–7

Non-Fiction. 8–9

Kids. 10

Crossword. 12

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interviews. Sally Tabner  
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OUR MEDIA KIT



# OUR FAVOURITE READS

## Ray loves ...



**Fever Beach**  
**Carl Hiaasen**

Sphere – \$34.99

Uproariously funny satire. Dedicated to Jimmy Buffet. Weirdos; ne-er do wells; geriatric, alcoholic philanthropists

funding Wee Hammers, a project of a corrupt congressman; a sex toy distributor turned white supremacist; a leftist Hispanic woman. In Florida -- of course.

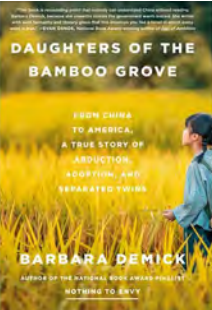


**Twist**  
**Colum McCann**

Bloomsbury – \$32.99

In this internet age, our life, from love letters to bank statements, is carried on more than a million miles of cables in the ocean's canyons.

What happens when one breaks? How can it be repaired. The loneliness of the ocean. McCann beautifully explores through a washed-up journalist sent to Cape Town to write about an enigmatic ship captain who can free dive up to 20 stories deep; he disappears somewhere off the coast of West Africa; or does he. His girlfriend actress, a diver in her own right, faces risks in London They meet again, sort of, maybe. An absolute masterpiece.



**Daughters of the Bamboo Grove**  
**Barbara Demick**

Text – \$36.99

To implement China's inhuman one-child policy, Family Planning

officials seized thousands of 'illegal' children from impoverished and often illiterate peasant families, using force and trickery. Outrage turns to tears as the author recounts the story of twins, one seized and sent to a state orphanage, eventually adopted by an American family who were told the child had been abandoned. By a distinguished foreign correspondent who writes as well as she reports, the author becomes very much part of the story, facing ethical dilemmas.

## Sally loves ...

**Is a River Alive**  
**Robert MacFarlane**

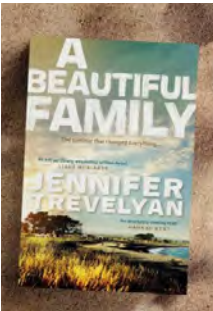
Hamish Hamilton – \$55

One of my favourite nature writers travels from the wounded heart of the Amazon to the abhorrently polluted waters of



Southern India. There he meets wild and adamant activists who fight for the rights of waterways. With his noble and resilient spirit MacFarlane considers the young 'Rights of Nature' legal framework, blending the

practical and the profound into this work of interesting and inspiring possibility.

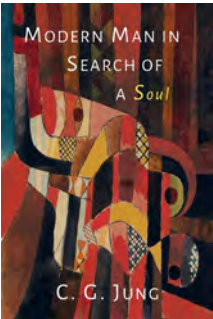


**A Beautiful Family**  
**Jennifer Trevelyan**

Allen and Unwin – \$32.99

A true page turner, told from the perspective of 10-year-old Alix. Through her eyes we

see the fault-lines in her parents marriage, the sharp selfishness of her teenage sister, and the simmering threat of a lecherous neighbour. A mystery lurks beneath every surface in this perfectly paced, consistently brilliant debut! You'll love it too



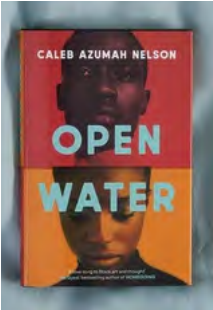
**Modern Man in Search of a Soul**  
**C.G. Jung**

Routledge – \$29.99

A deeply affecting book. Modern Man is lost, floundering, neurotic. The legendary psychoanalyst

presents an eminently readable theory on the origin and treatment of neuroses and carefully articulates his understanding of the unconscious, the place of dreams and the pathways therapy might take in the quest for a more whole and individuated consciousness. Highly recommend.

## Annie loves ...



**Open Water**  
**Caleb Azumah Nelson**

Viking – \$22.99

A tender love story and meditation on Blackness and masculinity set in contemporary London. Told in the

second person with a lyrical prose that reads like water, Nelson questions what it means to be seen and not seen, to love, to find safety and to lose it. An instant favourite, I adored this book.

## Julia loves ...



**Glorious Exploits**  
**Ferdia Lennon**

Penguin – \$22.99

I LOVED this book – funny, smart, and strangely moving. Set in ancient Syracuse but written with a modern, Irish street

wit, it follows two unemployed potters who decide to put on a Greek tragedy ... using prisoners of war (held in the local quarry) as actors! It shouldn't work, but it totally does. The dialogue crackles, the characters are rough, but lovable and underneath all the laughs, there's real heart and thought about war, art and friendship.

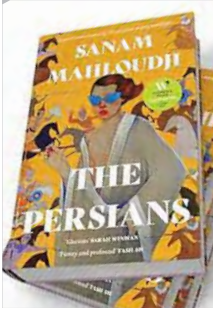


**Hard by a Great Forest**  
**Leo Vardiashvili**

Bloomsbury – \$22.99

Hard By a Great Forest reads like a dark fairytale for our times. Lyrical, unsettling and strangely tender,

it follows a young man on the hunt for his missing family; now on the run himself. At its heart it's also a story of unexpected friendships and the enduring voices of all those we've lost. Part fable, part refugee road-trip and genuinely unforgettable.



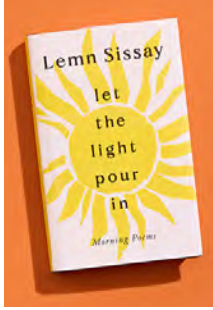
**The Persians**  
**Sanam Mahloudji**

Harper Collins – \$32.99

Moving between Tehran and the USA, The Persians is a darkly funny portrait of The Valiat family. Caught between two cultures they navigate

love, loss and the complexities of identity and assimilation at home and in exile.

## Mary loves ...



**Let the Light Pour In**  
**Lemn Sissay**

Canongate – \$26.99

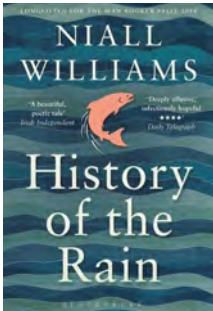
The perfect little book to sit by your bedside and read upon waking. Literally lets the

light pour in and imbue joy, especially in these winter months...

## Kati loves ...

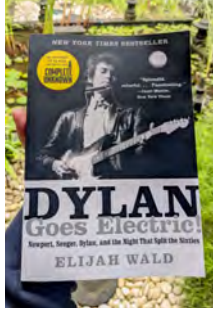
**History of the Rain**  
**Niall Williams**

Bloomsbury – \$22.99



Ruth Swain, a precocious Irish teen-ager in the tiny town of Faha, is dying. Bedridden, with books as her closest companions, she is seeking to understand her family and history through the pages.

This wonderfully detailed novel is an endearing love letter to literature and to those who give our lives meaning.



**Dylan Goes Electric**  
**Elijah Wald**

Harper Collins – \$34.99

I was initially terrified by the idea of Timothee Chalamet playing

Dylan, but pleasantly surprised by the result. This book was the inspiration behind A Complete Unknown and continues to satisfy my personal thirst for all things Dylan.

## Noah loves ...



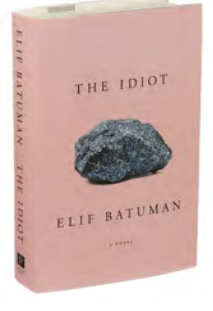
**The Eight Mountains**  
**Paolo Cognetti**

Vintage – \$22.99

The Eight Mountains is a quietly powerful meditation on friendship, belonging and the power of

nature. It is set against the captivating backdrop of the Italian alps and charts Pietro's life, from childhood to adulthood, unpacking the complexities of father-son relationships and enduring friendships. Cognetti investigates the profound lessons that come from silence in nature and the emotional depths of a life shaped by the natural world.

## Emerald loves...



**The Idiot**  
**Elif Batuman**

Canongate – \$29.99

One of those books where 'nothing happens' which makes it strangely compelling. We follow Selin as she navigates her first year at

Harvard in the mid-90s, during the early days of email. She's deeply relatable in her flaws, awkwardness, and uncertainty about what she wants out of life. Rich in humour and carried by powerful, understated writing. Batuman's style is dense and layered, full of literary influences and references that come together seamlessly.





# TIM SCHULTZ

## COVER ARTIST INTERVIEW

Written by Sally Tabner; Images courtesy of Tim Schultz

work. It is harmonious, weird, transfixing.

As we settle in the beautifully proportioned and sunlit library I see a rigorous scholar in his magnificent collection of art and history books. There are exceptional treasures here, including a rare catalogue raisonne of Rococo painter Boucher, and the 'unjustly obscure' *Memorials of Edward Burne-Jones*.

We browse tomes on the medieval, gothic and pre-Raphaelite periods, a time when artists "saw where the world was going, with the satanic mills and the proletariat poor. They felt we had to return to a more humane world". The intersection of history, economics and art is relevant as ever, capitalism actively displacing the artist: "This techno-capitalism, it wants a completely clean slate... Artists are very much involved with the past".

*If you don't fully imbibe the past as an artist, you're not really creating.*

Tim grew up in Avalon, revelling in the freedom of a town that was a 'bit edgier then, but always relaxed'. He was "an obsessive little artist". His childhood paintings hang alongside recent works in the library. It was teenage band mate Peter Richardson who first introduced him to Salvador Dali. He produces a small volume on the Spanish artist and opens to a book-plate: 'Barrenjoey High School. Tim

Schultz, 1975 History Prize'. "Dali is the reason I'm an artist, because he was the only one I knew when I was a kid... This was the first Dali book I bought, with my \$4 coupon for the history prize... before Bookoccino's time."

In the 80's, "the last bohemian decade", he rented a warehouse studio on Oxford Street, living with other artists beneath Ace Burke, who famously bought Christian the lion from a London Harrods store: "he came back to Australia and he swapped the lion for about 20 small cats. It's the same weight of feline flesh. He was a real eccentric". A creative life flourished, "we had little ballet performances and kind of weird operettas. In those days everyone was doing it. There were weird things going on all over Sydney. It was such a great city."

We continue to pore over books. There is a shelf reserved entirely for British novelist Evelyn Waugh. Many of them first editions has mended with the same meticulous care Tim gives to his art. He singles out the Sitwell siblings – Edith, Osbert and Sacheverell: "genius ... really cultured writing" of a sort rarely found in contemporary essays. Tim takes down his thesis on Freud, a PhD supervised by "the great Matthys Gerber". "I love Freud ... as a cultural analyst, particularly of art and philosophy". He could illuminate the "symbolic world that artists construct". In this library literature and art are layered, textured, important.

As the light dims we visit the garden studio. Tim has a show on at the Commercial, his first in five years, "just five pictures, but they're quite big ... I don't like having any pressure in my life. I would hate to be told to get another show ready". It is the Avalon way. We never manage to discuss his music. I discover it later. It is, unsurprisingly, exceptional.

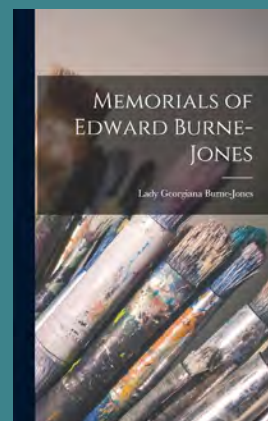
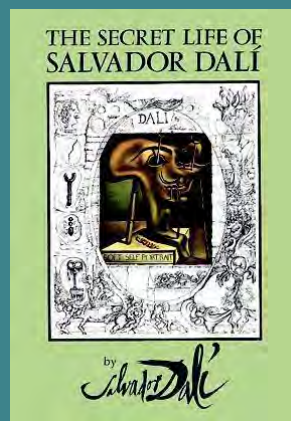
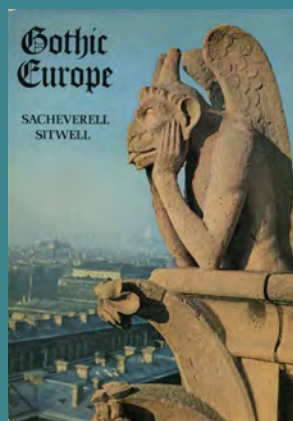
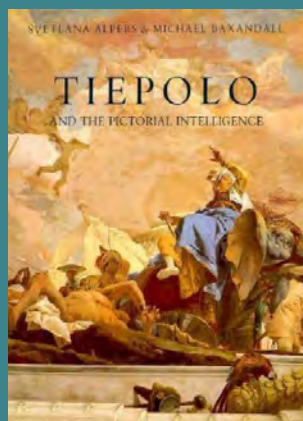
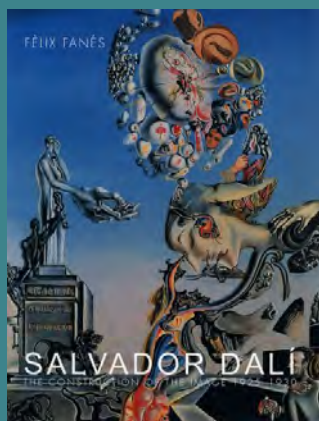
**I VISITED COVER ARTIST, TIM SCHULTZ, at home with partner Sylvie (of really good gluten free cake fame) on a drizzly afternoon in April.**

Through his daughter, Bookoccino staffer Elke Schultz, I know Tim to be an avid reader with a PhD on Freudian theory and art, a provocative artist and a former punk rocker.

In their treehouse home I encounter his profoundly wonderful world of intellect, artistry and curiosity.

Large sculptures have a powerful physical presence throughout the home and everywhere paintings swim with the magnetic liquid forms you see in 'Onyx', our cover art. There is an untrammelled primordial quality in Tim's

### Books Tim loves ...



{ DISCOVER MORE ART BOOKS TODAY }



{ CLICK AND COLLECT IN AVALON + DELIVERY ACROSS AUSTRALIA }



# FICTION



**The History of Sound**  
**Ben Shattuck**  
Swift Press – \$32.99

In 12 luminous stories set across three centuries, *The History of Sound* examines the unexpected ways in which the past returns to us and how love and loss are entwined and transformed over generations. In this ingenious collection, each story has a companion story, which contains a revelation. Mysteries and murders are revealed, history is refracted and deep emotional connections are woven through characters and families.



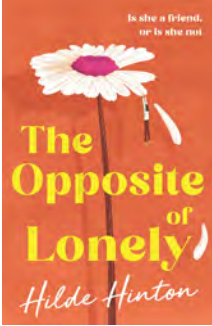
**Gabriële**  
**Anne Berest and Claire Berest**  
Europa – \$34.99

An atmospheric, exuberant novel about love and sex, art and revolution, experimentation and creativity. From the best-selling author of *The Postcard*, Anne Berest, and her sister, the acclaimed novelist Claire Berest, based on the life of their great grandmother.



**Orpheus Nine**  
**Chris Flynn**  
Hachette – \$32.99

An unputdownable supernatural thriller about a mysterious global event, set in a rural Australian town. On the morning of a child’s ninth birthday, it happens. No one knows why. The ongoing horror becomes known as Orpheus Nine and bereft parents are cruelly labelled Orpheans. Global leaders have no answers, chaos takes hold, conspiracy theories and violence spread as scientists wrestle with the toll. Anxious citizens and militant Orpheans try to take matters into their own hands.



**Opposite of Lonely**  
**Hilde Hinton**  
Hachette – \$32.99

Rose knows that she should be happy. She has a thoughtful son, a kind boss and a dream box full of savings for a rainy day. But sometimes the brick in her chest gets so heavy that it’s all she can do to simply watch the minutes tick by on the oven clock. Things change when a stranger arrives. Rose can’t believe that someone like Ellie would want to be her friend. Ellie always knows what to do. She is bright and shiny and so caring. With Ellie by her side, things feel possible again, and Rose starts to remember who she is. Soon, she can’t imagine how it was without Ellie there.



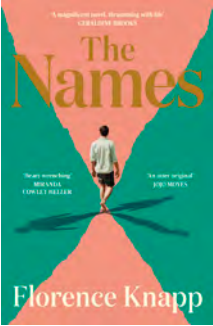
**Speak to Me of Home**  
**Jeanine Cummins**  
Tinder Press – \$32.99

Rafaela remembers everything that matters: her beautiful childhood in San Juan, her marriage to Peter, uprooting their children to the American Midwest and losing all sense of her place in the world. So she tells no one when her memory begins to slip. When she is suddenly called upon by her daughter to sit at her granddaughters hospital bedside the facade starts to slip.



**The Director**  
**Daniel Kehlmann**  
Phoenix – \$32.99

A visionary tale inspired by the life of the 20th century film director G.W. Pabst, who left Europe for Hollywood to resist the Nazis and then returned to his homeland with his wife and young son and began making films for the German Reich. This is the story of an artist’s life, a pact with the devil, and the dangerous illusions of the silver screen.



**The Names**  
**Florence Knapp**  
Phoenix – \$32.99

It is 1987, and in the aftermath of a great storm, Cora sets out with her 9-year-old daughter to register the birth of her son. Her husband intends for her to follow a long-standing family tradition and name the baby after him. But when faced with the decision, Cora hesitates. Going against his wishes is a risk that will have consequences, but is it right for her child to inherit his name from generations of domineering men? The choice she makes in this moment will shape the course of their lives.



**The Unquiet Grave**  
**Dervla McTiernan**  
Harper Collins – \$34.99

The much-anticipated new novel in the Cormac Reilly series, from the no.1 best-selling author of *The Ruin*. For years the boglands of Northern Europe have given up bodies of the long-deceased. Bodies that are thousands of years old, uncannily preserved. Bodies with strange injuries that suggest ritual torture and human sacrifice. When a corpse is found in a bog in Galway, Cormac Reilly assumes the find is historical. But closer examination reveals a more recent story. The dead man is Thaddeus Grey, a local secondary school principal who disappeared two years prior.



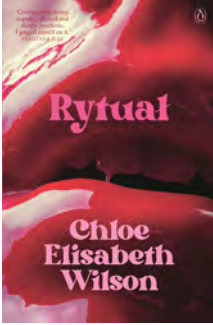
**Cloudless**  
**Rupert Dastur**  
Figtree – \$34.99

A powerful debut novel charting the fault-lines that open in a North Wales farming family as they wait for their son to return from the Iraq War. His decision to enlist left them reeling, yet there are other pressing concerns to be met at home -- the working of the farmland that has been theirs for generations and what to do with their troubled younger son.



**The Ladies Road Guide to Utter Ruin**  
**Alison Goodman**  
Harper Collins – \$34.99

In Regency England, the eccentric Colebrook sisters are amateur detectives who use their wits and invisibility as ‘old maids’ to fight injustice in this delightful and fiercely feminist novel of mystery and adventure. From New York Times best-selling author Alison Goodman.



**Rytual**  
**Chloe Elisabeth Wilson**  
Penguin Random House – \$32.99

Marnie Sellick is adrift when she lands a job at the coveted, mysterious beauty brand Rytual Cosmetics. The enigmatic founder and CEO, Luna Peters, takes a liking to Marnie and as the two grow closer Marnie becomes intoxicated by the life that Luna, and Rytual, can offer her. But all is not what it seems. Luna has a cult-like hold over the all-female staff and that’s not to mention what happens at their weekly Friday Night Drinks.



**The Homemade God**  
**Rachel Joyce**  
Doubleday – \$34.99

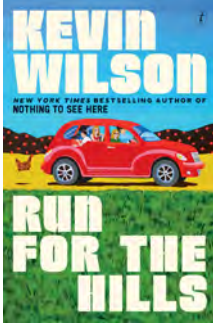
Set against the wild backdrop of an intense heatwave in Europe, this is a story about sibling relationships – what holds a family together and what might fracture it forever. Goose and his three sisters gather at the family’s house by Lake Orta in Piedmont, Italy. Their father, a famous artist, has recently remarried a much younger woman and decamped to Italy to finish his masterpiece. Now he is dead and there is no sign of the painting.

**The Emperor of Gladness**  
**Ocean Vuong**  
Jonathan Cape – \$34.99

An achingly beautiful novel, witty and darkly humorous. One summer evening in the bleak town of East Gladness,

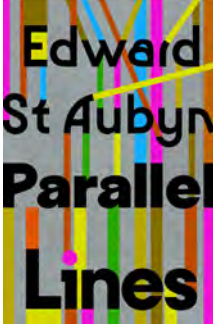


Connecticut, 19-year-old Hai, a Vietnamese college dropout, stands on a bridge, ready to jump, when he hears someone shout across the river. The voice belongs to Grazina, an elderly widow succumbing to dementia who lives in a dilapidated house on the wrong side of the tracks. They bond over their addiction to pills. Hai finds friends among his fellow workers in dead-end jobs.



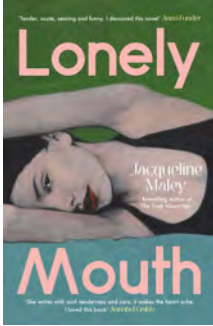
**Run for the Hills**  
**Kevin Wilson**  
Harper Collins – \$34.99

Ever since her dad left them 20 years ago, it’s just been Madeline Hill and her mother on their Tennessee farm. It’s mostly okay. Maybe sometimes a bit lonely. Then one day a stranger pulls up in a rental car and informs Madeline that he’s her half brother, Reuben, abandoned by their dad 30 years ago. Reuben has hired a detective to track down their father, along with a string of other half siblings. And he wants Mad to join him on a cross-country road trip to find them. Kevin Wilson is a funny guy.



**Parallel Lines**  
**Edward St Aubyn**  
Harper Collins – \$34.99

It is summer. Sebastian is in treatment following a breakdown that has left him with a fragile hold on reality and a hunger to connect with the mother who abandoned him. His therapist also faces challenges, including his adopted daughter Olivia’s tenuous relationship with her biological mother. Over a year fates collide in outrageous and poignant ways. *Parallel Lines* is a novel about connection, family, love and the cascading consequences of our choices.



**Lonely Mouth**  
**Jacqueline Maley**  
Harper Collins – \$34.99

Matilda and Lara are half-sisters who share an unreliable mother and a chaotic past. In every other way they are strikingly different. When Lara’s father, the long-absent, erratic Angus Dante, comes back into the sisters’ lives to make amends for his past misdeeds, Matilda’s compartmentalised life goes seriously awry. As everything blows apart, Matilda is forced to come to a reckoning with who she is and how to satisfy the hunger she wants to deny. A tender, vivid and fiercely relatable novel about the conflicted way women think about their bodies, their appetites and themselves.

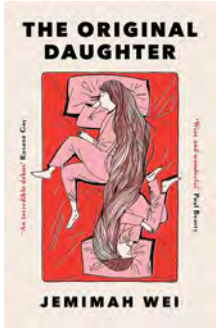




**The White Crow**  
**Michael Robotham**  
*Hachette – \$34.99*

As the daughter of a London crime boss, Police Constable Philomena McCarthy walks a thin blue line

keeping the two sides of her complicated life separate. On patrol one night she discovers a child in pyjamas, wandering alone. Taking Daisy home, Phil uncovers the aftermath of a deadly home invasion, as three miles away a prominent jeweller is found strapped to an explosive in his ransacked store. The crimes are linked and all the evidence points to Phil’s father as the mastermind.



**The Original Daughter**  
**Jemimah Wei**  
*Hachette – \$34.99*

Singapore, 1996. Genevieve Yang was an only child. Living with her parents and grandmother in a single-room flat in

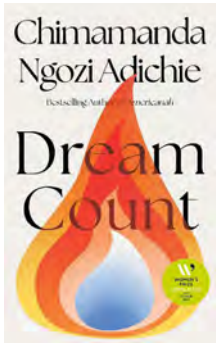
Bedok, she is saddled with an unexpected sibling when Arin appears, the shameful legacy of a grandfather long believed to be dead. At once collaborators and sisters, Gen and Arin grow up inseparable, navigating the intensity of life in working-class Singapore – where urgent insistence on achievement demands self-immolation in the realms of imagination, work and play. But as the rapidly modernising, winner-takes-all world threatens to leave one behind the sisters must weigh their allegiances and bonds.



**Slags**  
**Emma Jane Unsworth**  
*Harper Collins – \$32.99*

It’s the 1990s. Sarah is 15, obsessed with boy bands, sex and getting drunk. Fast forward 26 years. Sarah is 41, the last of the party girls. But

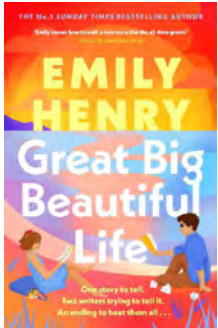
the mad nights out are losing their shine. And her teenage dreams are now distant, queasy memories. There’s only one cure for it: an adventure. Sarah sets off with her sister Juliette. They are not alike, but they know the dark corners of each other’s history – and it’s time to dig up some demons, kicking and screaming.



**Dream Count**  
**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**  
*4th Estate – \$32.99*

A sparkling, transcendent novel about four women making their way in modern America. *Dream Count* takes up the very nature of

love itself. Is true happiness ever attainable or is it just a fleeting state? And how honest must we be with ourselves in order to love, and to be loved? A trenchant reflection on the choices we make and those made for us, on daughters and mothers, on our interconnected world, pulsing with emotional urgency and poignant, unflinching observations on the human heart.



**Great Big Beautiful Life**  
**Emily Henry**  
*Viking – \$34.99*

When Margaret Ives, the famously reclusive heiress, invites young wrtier Alice Scott to balmy Little Crescent

Island, Alice knows this is her big break - a chance to impress her family with a Serious Publication. The catch? Pulitzer-prize winning human thundercloud, Hayden Anderson, is sure of the same thing. They have one-month to try and impress Margaret. Only one will be given the right to tell the story of the scandalous Ives family. The problem is Margaret is only giving tantalising pieces. Pieces they can’t put together because of an ironclad NDA and an inconvenient yearning which pulses between them.

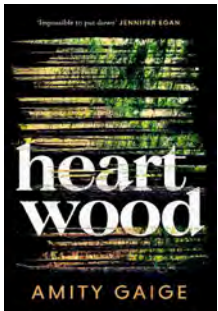


**Better Days**

**Claire Zorn**  
*Atlantic Collins – \$34.99*

Twenty years ago, Grace only wanted to be with Trent – a boy with a guitar and a lot of promises. Her mother wanted her

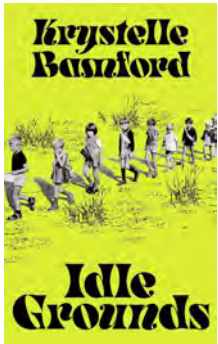
daughter to fulfil her potential. In a fit of fury and heartbreak, Grace boards a plane to London where she builds a dazzling career in the music industry, marries Ed and has two children. That glamorous lifestyle is a distant memory when Grace returns with kids in tow to the Blue Mountains. Her mother is waiting with inevitable questions and Grace bumps into a blast from the past ... Trent.



**Heartwood**  
**Amity Gaige**  
*Atlantic Collins – \$34.99*

In the heart of the Maine woods, an experienced Appalachian Trail hiker goes missing. She is 42-year-old

Valerie Gillis, who has vanished 200 miles from her final destination. Alone in the wilderness, Valerie pours her thoughts into fractured, poetic letters to her mother as she battles the elements and struggles to keep hope alive.



**Idle Grounds**  
**Krystelle Bamford**  
*Hutchison Heinemann – \$34.99*

On a bright summer day in 1989 New England, Abi, three years old, vanishes from her aunt’s secluded home.

The adults don’t seem to notice, too busy bickering over politics and reminiscing about the family’s domineering matriarch. The children have no choice but to get Abi back themselves. As the cousins embark on a quest through their grandmother’s sprawling estate, buried family secrets come to light and long-awaited plans are set in motion. Will they lose themselves while trying to find her?



**The Image of Her**  
**Simone De Beauvoir**  
*Vintage Arrow – \$34.99*

Laurence appears to live an ideal life. Weekends in the country, weekdays in Paris, all the

trappings of 1960s French bourgeoisie. She has money, a handsome husband, two daughters, a lover and a successful career as an advertising copywriter. But all of this is buried by the expectation of perfection. It is only when her 10-year-old daughter, Catherine, starts to vocalise her despair about the unfairness of the world that Laurence begins to act, finally grappling with a life that prizes image over truth.



**Melaleuca**  
**Angie Fay Martin**  
*Harper Collins – \$34.99*

A country town, a brutal murder, a shameful past, a reckoning to come. The injustices of the past and dangers of the present envelop

Aboriginal policewoman Renee Taylor, when her unwilling return to the small outback town of her childhood plunges her into the investigation of a brutal murder.



**The Devil Three Times**  
**Rickey Fayne**  
*Fleet – \$34.99*

Yetunde awakens aboard a slave ship en route to the United States with the spirit of her dead sister as her only

companion. Desperate to survive, she finds help in an unexpected form – the Devil. The Devil decides to prove himself to an indifferent God by protecting Yetunde and granting her a piece of his supernatural power. In return, Yetunde makes an incredible sacrifice. Steeped in the spiritual traditions and oral history of the Black diaspora, *The Devil Three Times* is a baptism by fire and water, heralding a new voice in American fiction.



**Air**  
**John Boyne**  
*Doubleday – \$34.99*

Being in limbo, 30,000 feet in the air, offers time to reflect and take stock. For Aaron Umber, it’s an

opportunity to connect with his 14-year-old son as they travel halfway across the world to meet a woman who isn’t expecting them. Unsettled by his past and anxious for his future, Aaron is at a crossroads in life. The damage inflicted upon him during his youth has made him the man he is, but now threatens to widen the growing fissures between him and his only child. This trip could bind them closer together or tear them further apart.



**Broken Country**  
**Clare Leslie Hall**  
*Harper Collins – \$32.99*

Beth was 17 when she first met Gabriel. Over that heady, intense summer, he made her think and feel and see

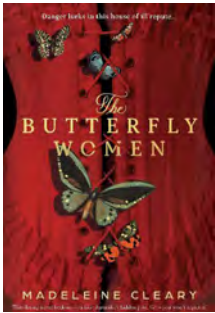
differently. She thought it was the start of her great love story. Now, 10 years later they reunite. The connection is instant. She knows it’s wrong and she knows people could get hurt. But how can she resist a second chance at first love?



**Lost Souls Meet Under a Full Moon**  
**Mizuki Tsujimura**  
*Harper Collins – \$32.99*

Is there anyone from the afterlife you wish to see? So asks the smart young man, Ayumi, to his clients

who have come to him for a reunion with the person who once changed their life. But it is no ordinary reunion The people they ask to see have passed away. Calling himself the go-between, Ayumi lays down strict rules around the meetings between the living and the dead – the deceased cannot have been summoned by anyone else; they may refuse; and they must meet under a full moon.



**The Butterfly Women**  
**Madeleine Cleary Jane Unsworth**  
*Harper Collins – \$32.99*

It’s 1863 and Melbourne is transitioning from a fledgling colony

to a thriving, gold-fuelled metropolis. But behind its shiny facade is the notorious red-light district of Little Lon, full of brothels where rich and poor revel all night. The most glamorous is Papillon, home to the most alluring women in the city. For poor Irishwoman Johanna Callaghan, a job at Papillon could be her ticket to success, but in a time when women’s lives are cheap, it also brings great danger. For respectable women like journalist Harriett Gardiner, Papillon is strictly off-limits, but when a murderer begins stalking the streets of Little Lon, she becomes determined to visit it and find the truth. As both women are drawn into the hunt for the killer, a long-hidden side of old Melbourne is revealed. Lush, dark and meticulously researched, *The Butterfly Women* weaves romance and mystery into an unforgettable tale of Australian history, and the women so often erased from it.



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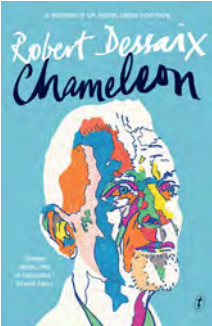


# NON-FICTION



**Red Scare: Blacklists, McCarthyism and the Making of Modern America**  
**Clay Risen**  
*Scribner – \$55.00*

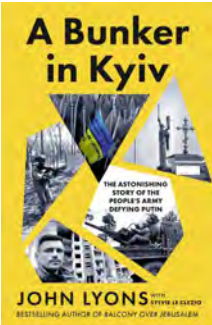
Loyalty oaths, blacklists, fearmongering, MAGA and the ascendancy of the right-wing, attacks on lawyers and universities. America today is a chilling echo of the 1950s witch hunts for Communists under every bed. Deeply researched, fluidly written history at its best.



**Chameleon**  
**Robert Dessaix**  
*Text – \$36.99*

A book of free flowing memories, cartwheeling from story to story. Dessaix describes an identity in flux, his youthful interest

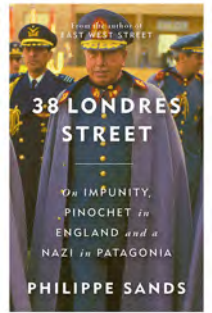
in religious thinking, his obsession with all things Russian, his marriage and divorce, his discovery of travel. *Chameleon* is a virtuoso performance of self-revelation as Dessaix explores how the restless mind takes constant detours to search for what makes life good, a place of wisdom and love.



**A Bunker in Kyiv**  
**John Lyons**  
*ABC Books – \$34.99*

A riveting account of courageous resistance from the best-selling author of *Balcony Over Jerusalem*.

John Lyons takes readers into the heart of a nation under siege. He interviews Ukrainians who stand tall in the face of an increasingly brutal conflict and an uncertain future. These are the stories of ordinary individuals making extraordinary contributions, determined to fight back in every way possible to ensure the survival of themselves, their families and the soul of their nation.



**38 Londres Street**  
**Philippe Sands**  
*Hachette – \$34.99*

A story of two mass murderers — Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, who tortured, murdered and disappeared

thousands during his 17-year reign from, and Walter Rauff, the designer of Hitler's mobile gas vans, in which some of the author's family may have been killed. Pinochet invited Rauff to Chile to escape justice. Pinochet fled to England, where a legal battle ensued over his extradition. A renowned international human rights lawyer, Sands lived near John LeCarre for many years; he obviously picked up some writing tips.



**Matriarch: A Memoir**  
**Tina Knowles**  
*Dialogue Books – \$34.99*

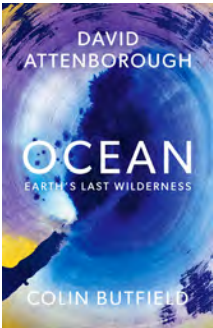
The mother of Beyonce Knowles-Carter, Solange Knowles and bonus daughter Kelly

Rowland, is known the world over as a Matriarch with a capital M. She shares her remarkable story of grief and tragedy, love and heartbreak, the nurturing of her superstar daughters — and the perseverance and audacity it takes for a girl from Galveston, Texas, to be a change-maker.



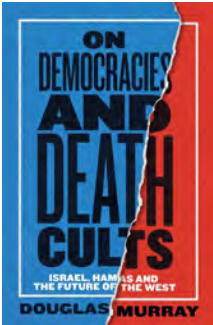
**Motherland: A Journey through 500,000 Years of African Culture and Identity**  
**Luke Pepera**  
*Hachette – \$34.99*

A ground-breaking exploration of African culture and identity, told via Luke Pepera's journey through 500,000 years of history to connect with his extraordinary heritage. Pepera tackles the questions many people of African descent ask — Who are we? Where do we come from? What defines us? And how might knowledge of deep history affect our understanding of our identity?



**Ocean: Earth's Last Wilderness**  
**David Attenborough**  
*John Murray – \$34.99*

From the icy seas of our poles to remote coral islands, David Attenborough has filmed in every ocean habitat on planet earth. Now, with long-term collaborator Colin Butfield, he shares the story of our last great wilderness, — the one which shapes the land we live on, regulates our climate and creates the air we breathe.



**On Democracies and Death Cults: Israel, Hamas and the Future of the West**  
**Douglas Murray**  
*Harper – \$34.99*

Drawing from intensive on-the-ground reporting in Israel, Gaza and Lebanon, Murray presents the latest violence in its historical context. Clear-eyed and deeply reasoned, *On Democracies and Death Cults* is a gripping and essential read for all who seek to understand the complexities of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and its implications for the future of democracy — and for the world itself.



**On Muscle: The Stuff That Moves Us and Why It Matters**  
**Bonnie Tsui**  
*Headline – \$34.99*

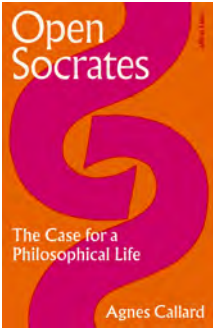
From the best-selling author of *Why We*

*Swim* comes a mind-expanding exploration of muscle that will change the way you think about how we move and why it matters. Tsui as jumps head-first into the intriguing world of muscle from the five angles of strength, form, action, flexibility and endurance. She introduces us to a range of incredible athletes, from Scotland to Nevada to Oslo.



**Six Conversations We're Scared to Have**  
**Deborah Frances-White**  
*Hachette – \$34.99*

A brave, witty and surprising investigation into difficult subjects by the best-selling author of *The Guilty Feminist*. Having grown up in a cult which shut down any dissent, Deborah sees the same tactics being used in our rapidly changing society. She knows the value of freedom of speech, critical thinking and the ability to argue well and she has been having difficult conversations in public for almost a decade. In this urgent page-turner, Deborah examines how the world has come to this and what we can actually do about it. Most importantly, she explores how to change minds, including our own. A bold invitation to meet this moment in history with hope, clarity and courage.



**Open Socrates: The Case for a Philosophical Life**  
**Agnes Callard**  
*Allen Lane – \$55*

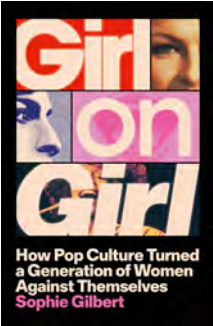
From philosopher Agnes Callard, one

of today's leading public intellectuals, comes a new and vibrant understanding of Socrates, his work and his unique approach to learning. Socrates noticed that the most important questions start off closed: before a person even has a chance to ponder how she should live, her bodily desires or the forces of social conformity have already answered on her behalf. Is it even possible to ask a question that you think you have already answered? Callard answers yes — but we can't do it alone. She argues that the true ambition of the Socratic method is to reveal what one human being can be to another.



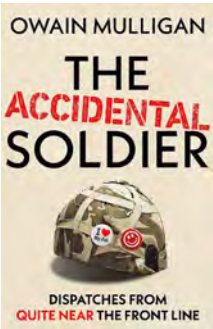
**Looking At Women, Looking At War: A War and Justice Diary**  
**Victoria Amelina**  
*William Collins – \$34.99*

When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Victoria Amelina was busy writing a novel, taking part in the country's literary scene and parenting her son. Then she became someone new: a war crimes researcher and the chronicler of extraordinary women like herself who joined the resistance. On the evening of June 27, 2023, Amelina and three international writers stopped for dinner in the embattled Donetsk region. When a Russian cruise missile hit the restaurant, Amelina suffered grievous head injuries and lost consciousness.



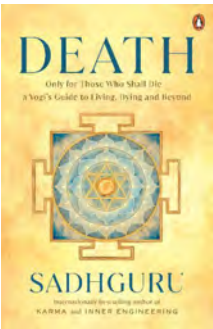
**Girl on Girl: How Pop Culture Turned a Generation of Women Against Themselves**  
**Sophie Gilbert**  
*Hachette – \$34.99*

From Atlantic journalist and Pulitzer Prize-finalist Sophie Gilbert, *Girl on Girl* is the ultimate book for understanding the toxic legacy of popular culture on women today — and what we can do to fight back. Despite decades of progress, the gains of the feminist movement feel more fragile than ever. But this is not a unique moment. Feminism felt just as fragmented in the early 2000s, when the momentum of third-wave feminists and riot grrrls was squashed by lad culture and the commodification of Girl Power.



**The Accidental Soldier: Dispatches from Quite Near the Front Line**  
**Owain Mulligan**  
*Hachette – \$34.99*

Owain Mulligan was never what you'd call a career soldier. Nor even a particularly good one. On weekends he trained with the Territorial Army and dreamt of swapping the mayhem of teaching in a tough school for the adventure of service in Iraq. At least they'd let him wear a helmet in Iraq. But when the job in headquarters he's been expecting doesn't materialise, he found himself on the streets of Basra during one of the most violent periods of the conflict. It certainly put double geography with 9E into perspective.

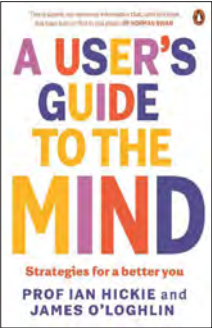


**Death: Only for Those Who Shall Die – A Yogi's Guide to Living, Dying and Beyond**  
**Sadhguru**  
*Penguin – \$36.99*

Death is an inevitable part of our lives, yet most societies have struggled to come to terms with it. Today, we continue to grapple with the enduring questions — What is Death? Why do we fear it? What happens after death? Is it an end or a doorway to something beyond?

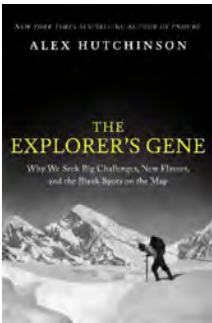


In this unique, clear-sighted exploration of death, Sadhguru considers deeper aspects of death that are rarely spoken about. What if death is not the catastrophe it is made out to be, but an essential aspect of life, rife with spiritual possibilities for transcendence?



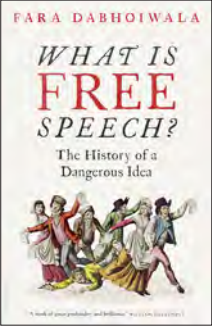
**A User’s Guide to the Mind: Strategies for a better you**  
Prof Ian Hickie and James O’Loughlin  
*Penguin – \$36.99*

An empowering book that examines the key moments in our mental health journey – from the first search for identity and belonging, through to our most important relationships, our hopes and ambitions, and inevitable times of crisis. A practical guide that will put you on a path to deeper happiness, better relationships and a life of greater meaning.



**The Explorer’s Gene: Why We Seek Big Challenges, New Flavors and the Blank Spots on the Map**  
Alex Hutchinson  
*Harper Collins – \$34.99*

Off the beaten path, following unmarked trails, we are wired to explore. More than just a need to get outside, the search for the unknown is a primal urge that has shaped the history of our species and continues to mould our behaviour in ways we are only beginning to understand. The latest neuroscience suggests that exploration in any form – whether it’s trying a new restaurant, changing careers, or deciding to run a marathon – is an essential ingredient of human life. Exploration, it turns out, isn’t merely a hobby – it’s our story.



**What is Free Speech? The History of a Dangerous Idea**  
Fara Dabhoiwala  
*Allen Lane – \$69.99*

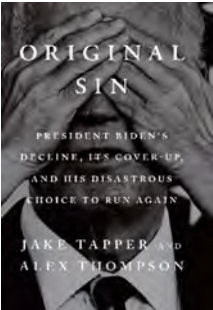
‘Free Speech!’ is a clarion call throughout the world, yet what it means today is more contested than ever. Many cultures regard it as dangerous – in many countries unorthodox views about politics, sex, and religion are repressed and people often punished for expressing them. Even in the western world, where it is considered a core value, there is widespread disagreement about what freedom of expression means. Amidst perennial imbalances of power, continually evolving cultural taboos, dramatic new technologies and a fast-changing global media landscape, where free speech comes from – and how we might think about it – are critical questions.



**Derek Jarman – The Authorised Biography**  
Tony Peake  
*Allison and Busby – \$69.99*

Derek Jarman’s story stretches from bleak

post-war Britain and his RAF childhood to studenthood at the Slade and work as a designer for such figures as John Gielgud and Ken Russell. His energetic home film-making with dazzling friends led to distinctive features like *Sebastiane*, *Jubilee*, *The Tempest*, *Caravaggio* and *Blue*. It is the story of a filmmaker, a gay activist, a painter and a gardener, and of a bohemian existence in a London long gone.



**Original Sin: President Biden’s Decline, Its Cover-Up and His Disastrous Choice to Run Again**  
Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson  
*Hutchinson Heinemann – \$36.99*

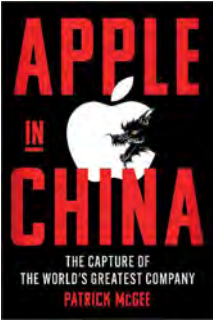
Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson  
*Hutchinson Heinemann – \$36.99*

An explosive account of one of the most hubristic mistakes in American political history - Joe Biden’s decision to run for re-election despite mounting evidence of his decline, and his team’s increasingly desperate efforts to hide it. Two of America’s best political journalists take us behind closed doors to reveal the extent of Biden’s decline and who knew about it.



**Rain of Ruin: Toyko, Hiroshima and the Surrender of Japan**  
Richard Overy  
*Allen Lane – \$55.00*

A remarkable account of the terrible climax to the Second World War in Asia, published to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing. The author rethinks how we should regard this last stage of the war and the role of the bombing. He explores how the willingness to kill civilians and destroy cities became normalised in the course of a horrific war as moral concerns were blunted and scientists, airmen and politicians followed a strategy of mass destruction they would never have endorsed before the war began.



**Apple in China: The Capture of the World’s Greatest Company**  
Patrick McGee  
*Simon and Schuster – \$36.99*

Apple isn’t just a brand; it’s the world’s most valuable company and creator of the 21st Century’s defining product. The iPhone has revolutionised the way we live, work and connect. But Apple is now a victim of its own success, caught in the middle of a new Cold War between two superpowers. On the brink of bankruptcy in 1996, Apple shifted its operations offshore; lured to China by the promise of cheap labour. As the iPod and iPhone transformed Apple’s fortunes, their sophisticated production played a seminal role in financing, training, supervising and supplying Chinese manufacturers – skills Beijing is now weaponising against the West.

**Charles Todd’s Magnificent Obsession: The epic race to connect Australia to the world**



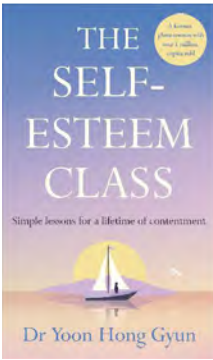
**David Duffy**  
*Allen and Unwin – \$36.99*

Engineer Charles Todd promised that he could string up wires on poles from Adelaide over 3000 kilometres to an undersea cable in Darwin harbour in just 18 months. It was a wild gamble that became an epic race against time.



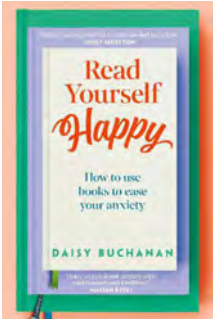
**All of It**  
Brooke Boney  
*Allen and Unwin – \$34.99*

Brooke Boney draws us into her world with honesty, humour and empathy. Talking about everything from the downsides of having a public profile to the joys of owning dogs, from the various forms of love that make up a life – romantic, familial, platonic – to how that love has been sustained through generations of colonisation and violence. Boney shares the concerns of her 30s – fertility, ageing, career progression – and discovers what’s actually worth fighting for.



**The Self Esteem Class: Simple lessons for a lifetime of contentment**  
Dr Yoon Hong Gyun  
*Michael Joseph – \$45.00*

If you struggle with low self-worth, vicious cycles and negative scripts, this book is a good place to start. *The Self-Esteem Class* will guide you toward a deeper understanding of your unique value and internal sense of validation. Learn to define confidence and happiness on your own terms with this Korean best-seller.



**Read Yourself Happy: How to use books to ease your anxiety**  
Daisy Buchanan  
*Dorling Kindersley – \$37.99*

Forget ‘self-help’ and embrace ‘shelf-help’, the healing power of books and reading to inspire, comfort and fortify. In a hectic world that can feel uncertain and overwhelming, Daisy Buchanan offers the perfect antidote to all the noise, inviting us to discover the literary worlds that have helped her survive – and thrive. Features original interviews with David Nicholls, Ruby Rare, Emma Gannon, Catherine Gray and more, plus hard-won wisdom and personally-curated reading lists.



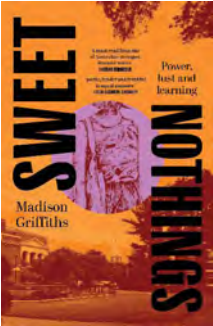
**Our Oaken Bones**  
Merlin Hanbury-Tenison  
*Witness Books – \$49.99*

bustle of London and return to Merlin’s childhood home, a Cornish hill farm called Cabilla in the heart of Bodmin Moor. There they are met by unexpected challenges – a farm slipping ever further into debt, discover the significance of their land as one of the UK’s last remaining fragments of Atlantic temperate rainforest and confront the sudden sickness of Merlin’s father, the explorer Robin. As they fall more in love with the rainforest that Merlin had adventured in as a child, so begins a fight to save not only themselves and their farm, but also one of the world’s most endangered habitats.



**The Last Outlaws: The Crimes of Jimmy & Joe Governor and the Birth of Modern Australia**  
Katherine Biber  
*Scribner – \$34.99*

Brilliantly reconstructed from contemporary narratives, *The Last Outlaws* is both a gripping work of historical true crime and a richly revealing examination of our nation at its birth. In the winter of 1900, Wiradjuri man Jimmy Governor and his brother Joe murdered nine people across New South Wales, in a rampage that caused panic in the colony on the cusp of nationhood. Undertaken with the co-operation of the Governors’ descendants, Katherine Biber’s compelling reconstruction of events sheds fresh, vivid light on the country that inspired and reacted to the murders: its attitudes to land and race; its anxiety about a wider First Nations insurrection; its obsession with paperwork and the emerging ‘sciences’ of neuroanatomy and criminology; its nepotism, religiosity, sweeping police powers and sensationalist media.



**Sweet Nothings: Power, lust and learning**  
Madison Griffiths  
*Ultimo Press – \$36.99*

*Sweet Nothings* is a gripping inquiry into the experience of four women who embarked on romantic relationships with their university professors. Through the stories of Rose, Blaine, Cara and Elsie, Griffiths explores what these relationships tell us about power and interrogates how class and gender are expressed and exploited in our academic institutions. *Sweet Nothings* reveals, with searing candidness, the labyrinth of ego, ambition and abuse that can begin in the classroom. It’s an unflinching critique of the hierarchies that distort relationships and can leave lasting scars.



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# KIDS



**The Foal in the Wire**  
**Robbie Coburn**  
*Hachette – \$19.99*

An astonishingly beautiful novel about survival, love and the bonds between humans and animals from an important young Australian poet. Sam, a teenager, lives on a farm with his mother and emotionally distant father, a horse trainer. Sam’s life changes when he finds a wounded foal tangled in barbed wire in one of the paddocks at the edge of their property. In the course of rescuing and caring for the foal he becomes close with Julia, a troubled girl from the next property.



**The Silken Thread**  
**Gabrielle Wang**  
*Penguin – \$17.99*

Moonie lives in Melbourne and dreams of designing dresses for movie stars. Eight thousand kilometres away in China, peasant boy Little Dipper cares for the silkworms on his family’s farm and hopes to learn English. A magical thread bonds them, but will it endure the trials, losses and ghosts that stand in their way? From one of Australia’s most esteemed children’s authors, a magical story of kindness, courage and friendship’s power to make dreams come true.



**The Blunders**  
**David Walliams**  
*Harper Collins – \$14.99*

Meet the Blunders: Bertie, Betsy, their children, Brutus and Bunny, along with their beloved grandma Old Lady Blunder and their pet ostrich, Cedric. An ostrich is not a sensible pet, but then the Blunders are not sensible people. This family of upper-class twits lives in a crumbling country house named Blunder Hall. When their home comes under threat, they must embark on a series of comic misadventures to save it. Absurd and hilarious, *The Blunders* is David Walliams’ funniest book yet. A laugh-out-loud tale of the most blundering and lovable family in history.



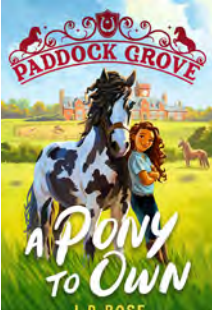
**The Wrong Way Home**  
**Kate O'Shaughnessy**  
*Yearling – \$14.99*

A newbery honor book, Caliba Golden Poppy Finalist and Booklist Best Book of the Year. Fern has lived on the Ranch, an off-the-grid, sustainable community since she was 6. When Fern’s mother sneaks them away in the middle of the night and says Dr Ben is dangerous, Fern doesn’t believe it. Suddenly thrust into the treacherous, toxic, outside world, Fern can think only of how to get home. As time goes by she will have big decisions to make. Should she live by Dr Ben’s rules or listen to the herself?



**The Legend of the Fang**  
**Nick Long**  
*Affirm Press – \$17.99*

Rufus Rumble is back and things are totally not great! He has crashed on a planet that has NO waffles, the aliens who live there want to lock him up and his only chance of survival is to hike up a fang-shaped mountain that’s rumoured to swallow people. By one of our favourite Northern Beaches authors, this totally hilarious adventure will have you on the edge of your seat the whole time.



**A Pony to Own**  
**J.P. Rose**  
*Walker Books – \$17.99*

A scholarship to Paddock Grove, an elite equestrian boarding school, is a dream come true for George. But when her local riding school closes and the horse she hoped to borrow is sold, it seems her dreams are over before they’ve begun – until her parents surprise her with a pony of her own. Unfortunately, that pony is Bear, a scruffy cob with tangles in his mane, feathers around his hooves and a mischievous streak a mile wide. He’s the complete opposite of the well-bred show horses her classmates are riding...

# Shores

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## Picture Books



### One Word and a Bird

Stephen Michael King

Scholastic – \$26.99

From out of the sky, like a clear idea, flew a bird. She landed on my nose... A young traveller sets out on a quest to find his place in a big world. He searches for a way to feel tall, make sense of life and find comfort. Simple

yet profound interactions with animals, including a bird, dog and horse, begin to reveal the answers. From the author and illustrator who brought you *Three*, *Rainbow Bear* and *Leaf* comes a story of serendipity, love and looking for the right word when nothing seems to fit.



### Neville's Great Escape

Sean E. Avery

Walker Books – \$25.99

Neville was a penguin known for being somewhat of a risktaker. He was brave, bold and beloved by all. Until the day he was eaten by a whale. Or so it seemed... Because

that was only the beginning of the story. A delightful and daring tale.



### How to Help

Davina Bell and Hilary Jean Tapper

Lothian – \$25.99

A warm-hearted look at some of the big and small ways we can all make a difference in the world, no matter our age – at home, around the neighbourhood, at school and in the community. *How to Help* explores everyday situations, sharing how

to spot opportunities for helping others and showing the comfort, happiness and satisfaction that helping can bring. A great learning book for young hearts and minds from the award-winning and much-loved duo Davina Bell and Hilary Jean Tapper.



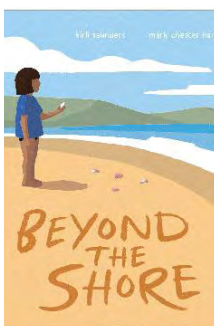
### Wolfred

Nick Bland

Hardie Grant – \$16.99

Fancy Pants Tower is the biggest, shiniest building in the city. And Wolfred operates the lift. Each day he silently observes extraordinary things as he passes between the floors of the tower. To his boss, Wolfred isn't important enough to notice. But Wolfred notices everything – big or

small, normal or very, very strange. This is what makes him a great writer.



### Beyond the Shore

Kirli Saunders

Scholastic – \$26.99

It's safer on the edge, where we can walk with our feet on the floor ... but beyond the shore is a world that inspires awe. Will you dive in? Written by award-winning Gunai author Kirli Saunders, with art by debut picture book illustrator Mark Chester Harding, *Beyond the Shore*

gently encourages young ones to step beyond fear into curiosity.



### Adventures on the Dreaming Path

Paul Callaghan

Hardie Grant – \$29.99

Meet Uncle Rolly, your guide through Dreamtime stories and activities, and join Emily and Jacob as they go on adventures to new and beautiful locations out in the bush. In each

chapter, Uncle Rolly tells us all a Dreamtime story, followed by a yarn with the children and their teacher, Ms Green



### The Wild Robot on the Island

Peter Brown

Allen and Unwin – \$24.99

Roz is not where she's supposed to be. She wasn't designed to live in the wilderness, but when she washes up on a desert island, she must learn from the animal inhabitants and adapt to her new, natural

surroundings. Before long the island begins to feel like home.



### We are Definitely Human

X. Fang

Pushkin – \$24.99

When three mysterious visitors show up in Mr. Li's field in the middle of the night, he does what any kind human would do - he invites them back to his farmhouse and offers to help fix their... car. No, there's nothing strange about these guests at

all. They're just like other humans.



### Shmoof

Heidi McKinnon

Allen and Unwin – \$24.99

Shmoof is Shmoofy. Shmoof is ready to be best friends. But Floof? Floof is not so sure...A story to warm the heart of anyone who has ever loved a playful furball. From the creator of the beloved bestsellers *Floof* and *I Just Ate My Friend*.



### Into the Bewilderness

Gus Gordon

Hardie Grant Childrens – \$24.99

Best friends Luis and Pablo spend their days wandering through nature, playing songs on the guitar, and eating pinecone porridge. But Luis wonders if there's more to life than just the woods and the rivers and the sky. Sure, life is good. but maybe it could be ... better? When adventure

in the big city calls, will the friends find what they're looking for?



### The Last Egg

Sophie Laguna and Jess Racklyeft

Allen and Unwin – \$24.99

When an extra egg appears in their nest and takes too long to hatch, Mother Bird and Father Bird must risk their lives to keep it warm. And as the freezing winter takes hold and it seems all hope is lost, only

something miraculous will save them. A gorgeous and heartwarming picture book about love, commitment and discovery from an outstanding creative team



### One Day

Michael Speechley and Shirley Marr

Walker Books – \$27.99

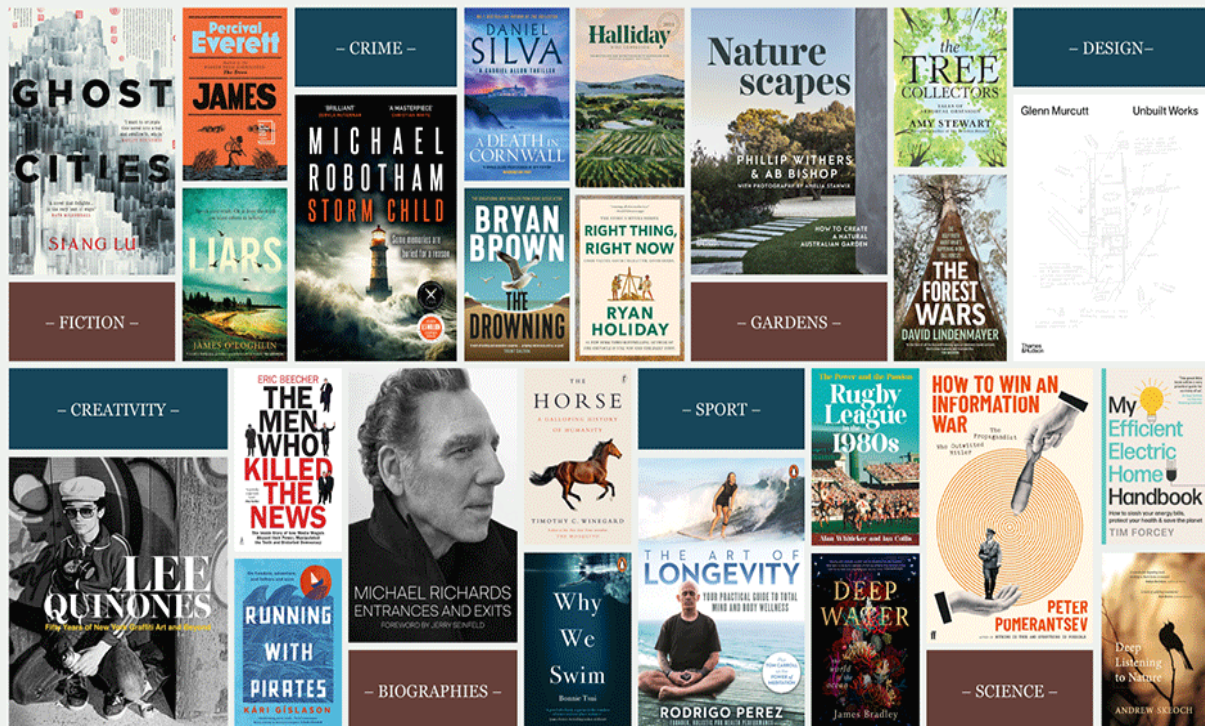
A story that inspires us to look at things differently, to live life to the fullest, and to seize the day, every day. Early one morning, a mayfly takes flight. Her one day is the day, and it is a day filled with possibility.

There are things to see, places to go, and friends to meet. Mayfly makes the most of every single moment, marvelling at what life has to offer.





IT'S ALL AT  
BOOK**o**CCINO



1. Aerated milk makes me...(5)
2. These birds are the best ever Aussie seller, thanks to Colleen.
4. All time best seller - where the protagonist dies near the middle of the story (3,5)
5. American lawyer and journalist who washes dishes like a boss (3, 6)
6. Sir Thomas More's fabulous world
7. Dimitri, Ivan and Alyosha are these famous brothers (9)
8. 'Sly al Banter' is confused to make this years best seller! (5,6)
11. Show's possession or abbreviation - often found in the wrong places (10)
12. Mary's favourite novel is a reimagining of Huck Finn
13. This guy's poetry is hot as hell (5)
16. Homer's travelope turns out to be quite the journey (7)
18. 'Pretty Ugly' is an example of this literary device (8)
20. Can you make this literary device a play on words? - "nup" (3)
22. Pun times: The pony with a cold was unable to sing. He was a little...(6)