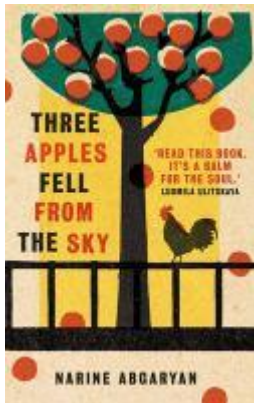


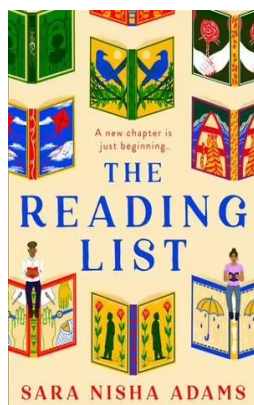
Book Club Kits 2025



Three Apples Fell from the Sky / Narine Abgaryan (2020)

In an isolated village high in the Armenian mountains lives a close-knit community. Their only connection to the outside world is an ancient telegraph wire and a perilous mountain road that even goats struggle to navigate. As they go about their daily lives - harvesting crops, making baklava, tidying houses - the villagers sustain one another through good times and bad. But sometimes all it takes is a spark of romance to turn life on its head, and a plot to bring two of Maran's most stubbornly single residents together soon gives the village something new to gossip about.

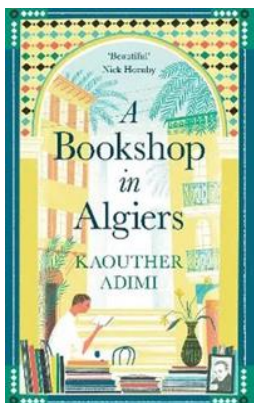
Fiction



The Reading List / Sara Nisha Adams (2021)

When Aleisha discovers a crumpled reading list tucked into a tattered library book, it sparks an extraordinary journey. The list opens a gateway to new and wonderful worlds – just when Aleisha needs an escape from her troubles at home. And when widower Mukesh arrives at the library, desperate to connect with his bookworm granddaughter, Aleisha introduces him to the magic of the reading list. An anxious teenager and a lonely grandfather forming an unlikely book club of two. Inspiring and heart-warming, The Reading List is a love letter to storytelling and reminds us that a new beginning is only a page away...

Fiction



A Bookshop in Algiers / Kaouther Adimi (2017)

A Bookshop in Algiers celebrates quixotic devotion and the love of books in the person of Edmond Charlot, who at the age of twenty founded Les Vraies Richesses (Our True Wealth), the famous Algerian bookstore/publishing house/lending library. Interweaving Charlot's story with that of another twenty-year-old, Ryad, who is dispatched to the old shop in 2017 to empty it of books and repaint it. Ryad's no booklover, but old Abdallah, the bookshop's self-appointed, nearly illiterate guardian, opens the young man's mind.

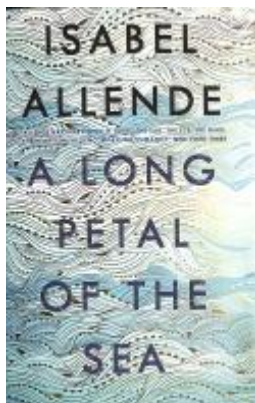
Fiction



Locust Summer / David Allan-Petale (2021)

On the cusp of summer, 1986, Rowan Brockman's mother asks if he will come home to Septimus in the Western Australian Wheatbelt to help with the final harvest. Rowan's brother, the natural heir to the farm, has died, and Rowan's dad's health is failing. Although he longs to, there is no way that Rowan can refuse his mother's request as she prepares the farm for sale. This is the story of the final harvest - the story of one young man in a place he doesn't want to be, being given one last chance to make peace before the past, and those he has loved, disappear.

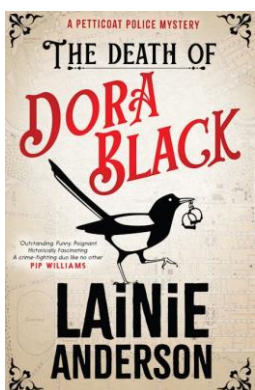
Fiction - Australian author



A Long Petal of the Sea / Isabel Allende (2020)

In the late 1930s, civil war grips Spain. A pregnant young widow, finds her life intertwined with that of an army doctor, the brother of her deceased love. When opportunity to seek refuge in Chile arises, they take it, boarding a ship chartered by the poet Pablo Neruda to the promised "long petal of sea and wine and snow". There, they find themselves enmeshed in a rich web of characters who come together in love and tragedy over the course of four generations, destined to witness the battle between freedom and repression as it plays out across the world.

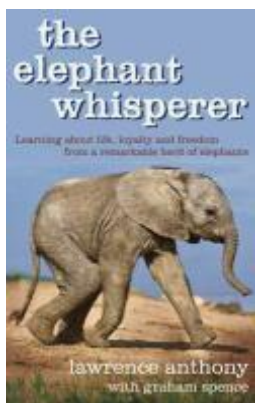
Fiction



The Death Of Dora Black / Lainie Anderson (2024)

Summer, Adelaide, 1917. The impeccably dressed Miss Kate Cocks might look more like a schoolmistress than a policewoman, but don't let that fool you. She's a household name, wrangling wayward husbands into repentance, seeing through deceptive clairvoyants, and rescuing young women (whether they like it or not) with the help of a five-foot cane and her sassy junior constable, Ethel Bromley. When shop assistant Dora Black is found dead on a city beach, Miss Cocks and Ethel are ordered to stay out of the investigation and leave it to the men. But when Dora's workmate goes missing soon after, the women suspect something sinister, and determine to take matters into their own hands.

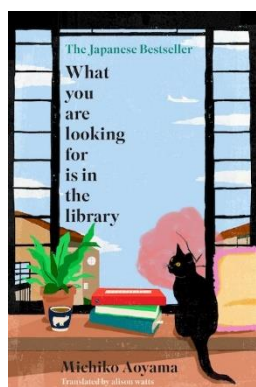
Fiction – Australian Author



The Elephant Whisperer / Lawrence Anthony (2009)

Lawrence Anthony accepted a herd of "rogue" wild elephants on his Thula Thula game reserve in Zululand in order to save their lives. In the years that followed he became a part of their family. And as he battled to create a bond with the elephants, he came to realize that they had a great deal to teach him about life, loyalty, and freedom.

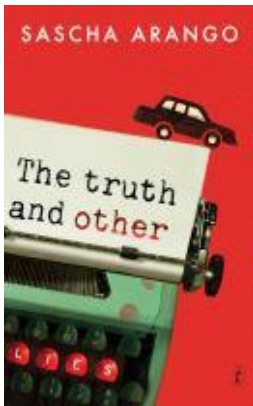
True Story



What You Are Looking for is in the Library / Michiko Aoyama (2023)

What are you looking for? So asks Tokyo's most enigmatic librarian. For Sayuri Komachi is able to sense exactly what each visitor to her library is searching for and provide just the book recommendation to help them find it. A restless retail assistant looks to gain new skills, a mother tries to overcome demotion at work after maternity leave, a conscientious accountant yearns to open an antique store, a recently retired salaryman searches for newfound purpose. In Komachi's unique book recommendations they will find just what they need to achieve their dreams. *What You Are Looking For Is in the Library* is about the magic of libraries and the discovery of connection.

Fiction



The Truth and Other Lies / Sascha Arango (2015)

From the outside, Henry Hayden has a perfect life: he's a famous novelist with more money than he can spend, a grand house, a loyal, clever wife. But Henry has a dark side. If only the readers and critics who worship his every word knew that his success depends on a carefully maintained lie. His luck must surely run out, and he simply can't allow that to happen. Henry makes a fatal error that could cause the whole dream to unravel and, despite his Machiavellian efforts, events swiftly spin out of control as lie is heaped upon lie, menace upon menace.

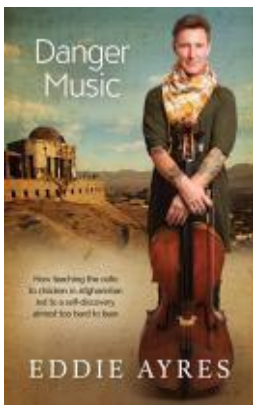
Fiction



The Rain Heron / Robbie Arnott (2020)

Set in a slightly futuristic world where climate change has impacted severely on the land and its people. Ren lives alone on the remote frontier of a country devastated by a coup. High on the forested slopes, she survives by hunting and trading - and forgetting. But when a young soldier comes to the mountains in search of a legendary creature, Ren is inexorably drawn into an impossible mission. As their lives entwine, unravel and erupt - as myth merges with reality - both Ren and the soldier are forced to confront what they regret, what they love, and what they fear.

Fiction - Australian author



Danger Music / Eddie Ayres (2017)

In 2014 Emma was spiralling into a deep depression, driven by anguish about her gender. She quit the radio, travelled, and decided on a surprising path - teaching music in a war zone. Emma applied for a position at the renowned Afghanistan National Institute of Music, teaching cello to orphans and street kids. Through the chaos of Kabul, into the lives of the Afghan children who are transported by music. Alongside these epic experiences, Emma determines to take the final steps to secure her own peace; she becomes the man always there inside - Eddie.

True Story – Australian author



Sunbathing / Isobel Beech (2022)

After weeks of grieving, a woman books a plane ticket, bound for an old villa in the mountains of Abruzzo. Invited to stay with her friends Giulia and Fab -she lives for a summer in the house's Birthing Room, where generations of women once had their babies. More often, she lives in her head: in the past, trying to make sense of her grief and wondering how to go on, or if she can. She passes the time helping with the household chores, walking in the sunshine and plucking fruit from the nearby orchards, all while dwelling on the moments with her father that might have warned her something was wrong.

Fiction – Australian author



After Story / Larissa Behrendt (2021)

When Indigenous lawyer Jasmine decides to take her mother Della on a tour of England's most revered literary sites, Jasmine hopes it will bring them closer together and help them reconcile the past. Twenty-five years earlier the disappearance of Jasmine's older sister devastated their tight-knit community. This tragedy returns to haunt Jasmine and Della when another child mysteriously goes missing on Hampstead Heath. As Jasmine immerses herself in the world of her literary idols, Della is inspired to rediscover the wisdom of her own culture and storytelling. But sometimes the stories that are not told can become too great to bear.

Fiction - Australian author



Welcome to Nowhere River / Meg Bignell (2021)

Long past its heyday, the riverside hamlet of Nowhere River is slowly fading into a ghost town. It's a place populated by those who are beholden to it, born to it and those who took a wrong turn while trying to go somewhere else. City-born Carra married into Nowhere River, Lucie was brought to it by tragedy, Josie is root-bound and Florence knows nowhere else. All of them are as lost as the place itself. The town's social cornerstone - St Margery's Ladies' Club - launches a rescue plan that turns everything around and upside down, until all sorts of things come floating to the surface.

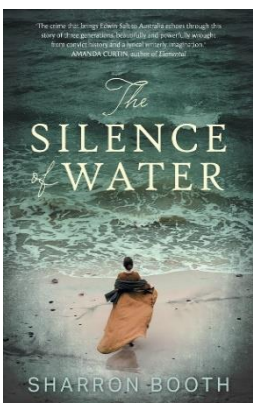
Fiction - Australian author



The Blue / Nancy Bilyeau (2018)

In 18th century London, porcelain is the most seductive of commodities; Kings go to battle for possession of the finest pieces and the secrets of their manufacture. For Genevieve porcelain, holds far less allure; she wants to be a painter of international repute, but nobody takes the idea of a female artist seriously in London. If only she could reach Venice. When Genevieve meets the charming Sir Courtenay, he offers her an opportunity she can't refuse; if she learns the secrets of porcelain, he will send her to Venice. But in particular, she must learn the secrets of the colour blue...

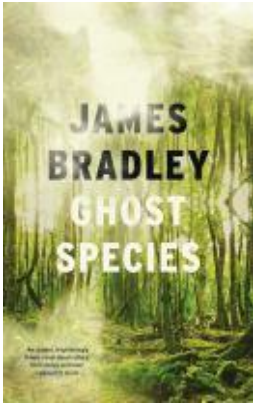
Fiction



The Silence of Water / Sharron Booth (2022)

It's the turn of the century when Fan's mother, Agnes, announces the family is moving to Western Australia to take care of Agnes's father – a man they've never spoken of before now. Resentful of her mother's decision to move, Fan forms an alliance with her grandfather, Edwin Salt, a convict transported to Australia in 1861. As she listens to memories of his former life in England, Fan starts snooping around the house, riffling through Edwin's belongings in an attempt to fill the gaps in his stories. But the secrets Fan uncovers will test the family's fragile bonds forever, and force Edwin into a final reckoning with the brutality of his past.

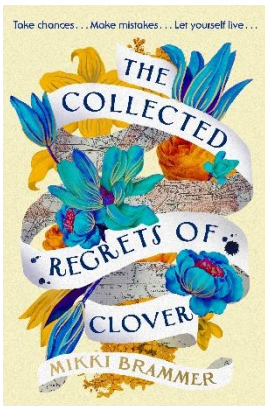
Fiction – Australian author



Ghost Species / James Bradley (2020)

Scientist Kate joins a secretive project to re-engineer the climate by resurrecting extinct species, including the Neanderthals. But when the first of the children is born, Kate is torn between science and wanting to protect little Eve. As Eve grows to adulthood she and Kate must face the question of who and what she is. Is Eve natural or artificial? Human or non-human? Set against the backdrop of hastening climate catastrophe, Ghost Species is an exquisitely beautiful and deeply affecting exploration of connection and loss in an age of planetary trauma.

Fiction – Australian author



The Collected Regrets of Clover / Mikki Brammer (2023)

What's the point of giving someone a beautiful death if you can't give yourself a beautiful life? After the beloved grandfather who raised her dies alone while she is traveling, Clover becomes a death doula in New York City, dedicating her life to ushering people peacefully through their end-of-life process. Clover spends so much time with the dying that she has no life of her own, until the final wishes of a feisty old woman send Clover on a trip across the country to uncover a forgotten love story--and perhaps, her own happy ending.

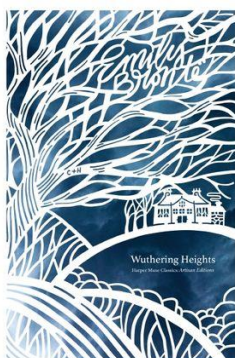
Fiction – Australian author



Wearing Paper Dresses / Anne Brinsden (2019)

Elise, a beautiful and artistic city girl is transplanted to the unforgiving plains of the Mallee when her husband is called to save the family property. She struggles: Bill works all day in the paddock and her father-in-law is openly hostile to her. She tries to become part of the community but is thought strange. As their mother withdraws more into herself, her spirited daughters, are left to raise themselves as best they can. A saga of two generations of women on the land.

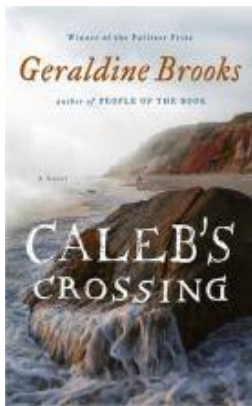
Fiction - Australian author



Wuthering Heights/ Emily Bronte (1847)

In this classic gothic story, Catherine Earnshaw is forced to choose between passionate, tortured foundling Heathcliff and gentle, well-bred Edgar Linton. Catherine surrenders to the expectations of her class and sets off a domino effect with lasting consequences. As bitterness and vengeance at this betrayal are visited upon the next generation, Catherine and Heathcliff's innocent heirs must struggle to escape the legacy of the lovers' tortured past.

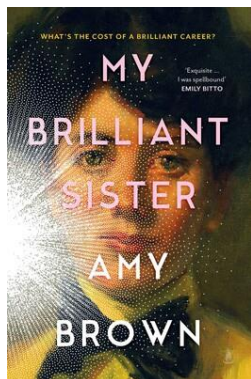
Classic Fiction



Caleb's Crossing / Geraldine Brooks (2011)

The book is inspired by the life of Caleb Cheeshahteumauk, in 1665, Caleb became the first American Indian to graduate from Harvard. It is about Caleb's journey from the Island to Harvard but it is also Bethia Mayfield's story. Bethia is a young Puritan girl, who becomes Caleb's lifelong friend, who also longs for an education but is denied. The intersection of two people from different cultures and ideas, and the love they share for each other and their home. A luminous yet harsh tale of love and faith, pain, and magic.

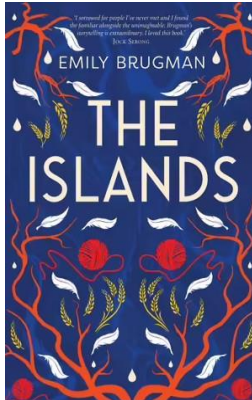
Fiction - Australian author



My Brilliant Sister / Amy Brown (2024)

While Stella Miles Franklin took on the world, her beloved sister Linda led a short, domestic life as a wife, mother and sister. In a remarkable, genre-bending debut novel Amy Brown thrillingly reimagines those two lives – and her own – to explore and explode the contradictions embedded in brilliant careers and a woman's place in the world. Sliding Doors meets Wifedom.

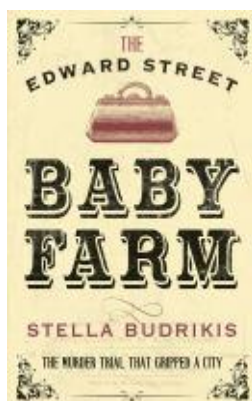
Fiction



The Islands / Emily Brugman (2022)

In the mid-1950s, a small group of Finnish migrants set up camp on Little Rat, a tiny island in an archipelago off the coast of Western Australia. The Islands is the sweeping story of the Saari family: Onni, an industrious and ambitious young man, grappling with the loss of a loved one; his wife Alva, quiet but stoic, seeking a sense of belonging; and their pensive daughter Hilda, who dreams of becoming the skipper of her own boat. As the Saari's try to build their future in Australia, their lives entwine with those of the fishing families of Little Rat, in myriad and unexpected ways.

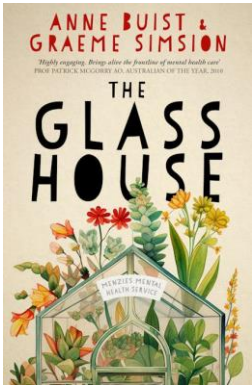
Fiction - Australian author



Edward Street Baby Farm / Stella Budrikis (2020)

In 1907, Perth woman Alice Mitchell was arrested for the murder of five-month-old Ethel Booth. During the inquest and subsequent trial, the state was horrified to learn that at least 37 infants had died in Mitchell's care in the previous six years. It became clear that she had been running a 'baby farm', making a profit out of caring for the children of single mothers and other 'unfortunate women'. The trial gripped the city of Perth and the nation. This book retraces this infamous 'baby farm' tragedy, which led to legislative changes to protect children's welfare.

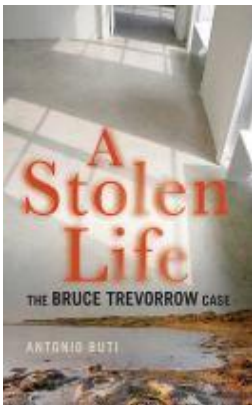
True Story - Australian author



The Glass House / Anne Buist (2024)

Psychiatry registrar Doctor Hannah Wright, a country girl with a chaotic history, thought she had seen it all in the emergency room. But that was nothing compared to the psychiatric ward at Menzies Hospital. Hannah must learn on the job in a strained medical system, as she and her fellow trainees deal with the common and the bizarre, the hilarious and the tragic, the treatable and the confronting. Every day brings new patients: Chloe, who has a life-threatening eating disorder; Sian, suffering postpartum psychosis and fighting to keep her baby; and Xavier, the MP whose suicide attempt has an explosive story behind it. All the while, Hannah is trying to figure out herself.

Fiction – Australian Author



A Stolen Life: The Bruce Trevor Case / Antonio Buti (2019)

On Christmas Day 1957, Joe Trevor walked through the blistering South Australian heat to seek help for his sick baby boy. When relatives agreed to take Bruce to hospital, Joe was relieved - his son was in safe hands - but, within days, Bruce would be living with another family, and Joe would never see his son again. This traces his journey and the legal team who believed in him, the judge who empathised with his plight, and the court case that made him the only member of the Stolen Generations to take on the state and win.

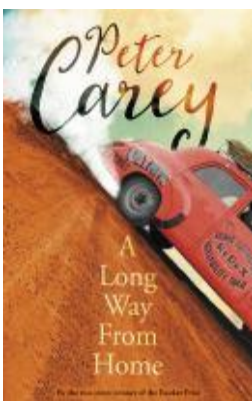
True Story – Australian author



The Girl Who Fell From the Sky / Emma Carey (2022)

When Emma Carey was twenty, she fell from 14,000 feet and survived. Emma tells us the inspirational story of how, through what could be considered one of her greatest tragedies, she found her truest self. From waking in hospital to the news that she was a paraplegic to learning how to use her legs again, through the six-year long court case and now being finally free to make the most of her life, Emma teaches us the importance of courage and resilience and how to appreciate the extraordinary beauty found even in the most ordinary moments of our lives.

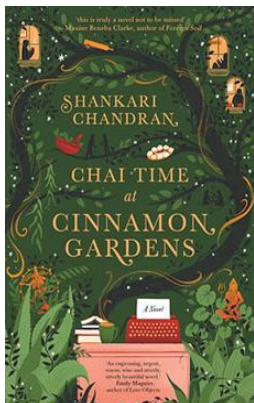
True Story - Australian author



A Long Way from Home / Peter Carey (2017)

Irene Bobs loves fast driving. Her husband is the best car salesman in western Victoria. Together they enter the Redex Trial, a brutal race around the ancient continent over roads no car will ever quite survive. With them is their navigator, Willie Bachhuber, a quiz show champion and failed schoolteacher whose job it is to call out the turns, the grids, the creek crossings on a map that will finally remove them, without warning, from the lily-white Australia they know so well.

Fiction - Australian author



Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens / Shankari Chandran (2022)

Cinnamon Gardens Nursing Home is nestled in the quiet suburb of Westgrove, Sydney – populated with residents with colourful histories, each with their own secrets, triumphs and failings. But this ordinary neighbourhood is not without its prejudices. The serenity of Cinnamon Gardens is threatened by malignant forces more interested in what makes this refuge different rather than embracing the calm companionship that makes this place home to so many. *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* is about family and memory, community and race, but is ultimately a love letter to storytelling and how our stories shape who we are.

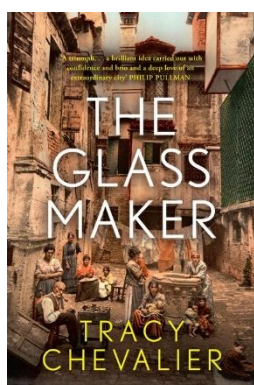
Fiction - Australian author



Saving Mona Lisa / Gerri Chanel (2018)

In 1939, curators at the Louvre spirited away the world's most famous painting into to the Loire Valley. So began the biggest evacuation of art and antiquities in history. As the Germans neared Paris in 1940, the French raced to move the masterpieces still further south, then again and again during the war, crisscrossing the southwest of France. Throughout the German occupation, the museum staff fought to keep the priceless treasures out of the hands of Hitler and his henchmen, often risking their lives to protect the country's artistic heritage.

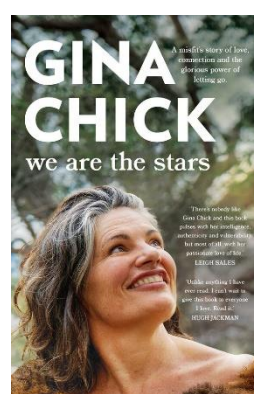
Historical Non-fiction



The Glassmaker / Tracy Chevalier (2024)

Venice, 1486. Across the lagoon lies Murano. Time flows differently here - like the glass the island's maestros spend their lives learning to control. Women are not meant to work with glass, but Orsola Rosso flouts convention to save her family from ruin. She works in secret, knowing her creations must be perfect to be accepted by men. But perfection may take a lifetime. Skipping like a stone through the centuries, we follow Orsola as she hones her craft through war and plague, tragedy and triumph, love and loss. Her creations will adorn the necks of empresses and courtesans from Paris to Vienna - but will she ever earn the respect of those closest to her?

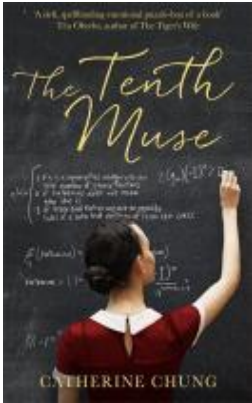
Fiction



We Are The Stars / Gina Chick (2024)

Gina Chick, the inaugural winner of *Alone Australia*, tells the story of her extraordinary, indomitable life in one of the most powerful, moving memoirs you will ever read. From day one of her wildly unconventional childhood, Gina Chick blazed her own trail, which led her to dance through the hidden world of '90s Sydney nightlife into the arms of a conman. She fled to the wilderness to find healing, began a wondrous love affair with the deepest lessons life - and death - can offer, and found that all the answers are written in the wisdom of the body and the whirling silence of stars.

Biography – Australian Author



The Tenth Muse / Catherine Chung (2019)

From childhood, Katherine knows she is different, and that her parents are not who they seem to be. But in becoming a mathematician and on her quest to conquer the greatest unsolved mathematical problem of her time, she turns to a theorem with a mysterious history that holds the lock and key to her identity. Forced to confront some of the most consequential events of the 20th century and rethink everything she knows of herself, she strives to take her place in the world of higher mathematics and finds kinship in the stories of the women who came before her.

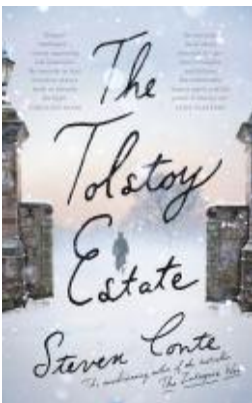
Fiction



Little Bee / Chris Cleave (2010)

The publishers don't want to tell you too much about this book. It is a truly special story and they don't want to spoil it. Nevertheless, you need to know something, so they will just say this: This is the story of two women. Their lives collide one fateful day, and one of them has to make a terrible choice, the kind of choice we hope you never have to face. Two years later, they meet again - the story starts there.

Fiction



The Tolstoy Estate / Steven Conte (2020)

During the German invasion of Russia in WWII, a German doctor, Bauer, is assigned to establish a field hospital at the former estate of Count Leo Tolstoy. There he encounters a hostile aristocratic Russian woman, who has been left in charge. But as a friendship develops between them, Bauer's arrogant commanding officer, becomes unhinged as the war turns against the Germans. Soon, everything starts to unravel... Exploring themes of sacrifice, love, desire, betrayal, duty and the power of great literature to inspire thought, to change minds and to connect people.

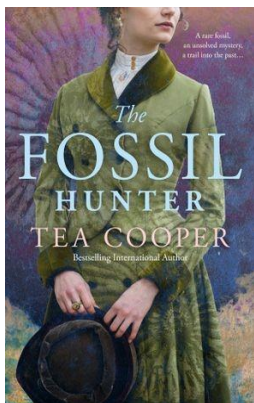
Fiction - Australian author



The Butterfly Collector / Téa Cooper (2022)

What connects a botanical illustration of a butterfly with a missing baby and an enigma fifty years in the making? 1868 Morpeth Theodora cannot believe her luck when she discovers a butterfly never before sighted in Australia. With the help of her maid, Clarrie, she is poised to make a natural science discovery. The Clarrie's newborn son goes missing and everything changes. 1922 Sydney Verity loses her job at The Arrow, and attends a ball where she lands a juicy commission to write the history of the Treadwell Foundation – an institution that supports disgraced young women and their babies. As she investigates, she is lead to a dark and complex mystery, fifty years in the making. Can she solve it? And would anyone believe her if she does?

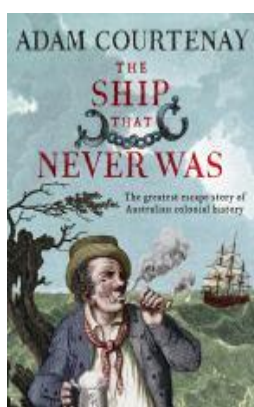
Fiction - Australian author



Fossil Hunter / Téa Cooper (2021)

A fossil discovered at London's Natural History Museum leads one woman back in time to nineteenth century Australia and a world of scientific discovery and dark secrets in this compelling historical mystery. *The Hunter Valley 1847*. Mellie's benefactors send her to visit a family friend, Anthea Winstanley. Anthea is an amateur palaeontologist with a dream. She is convinced she will one day find proof the great sea dragons swam in the vast inland sea that millions of years ago covered her property at Bow Wow Gorge. Soon, Mellie shares that dream for she loves fossil hunting too...

Fiction - Australian author



The Ship that Never Was / Adam Courtenay (2018)

In 1823, James Porter was convicted of stealing and transported to Van Diemen's Land. After several escape attempts from the notorious penal colony, Porter was sent to Sarah Island, known as hell on earth. Many had tried to escape; few had succeeded. When the Governor announced that the place would be closed and its prisoners moved to Port Arthur, Porter, along with a motley crew of other prisoners, pulled off an audacious escape. What happened next is stranger than fiction, a fitting outcome for this true-life picaresque tale.

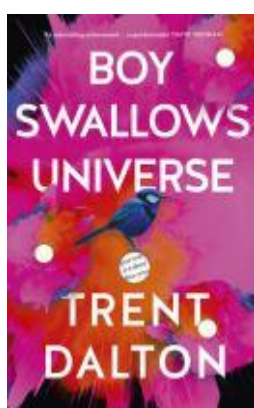
True Story - Australian author



Kathleen O'Connor of Paris / Amanda Curtin (2018)

In 1906, Kathleen O'Connor left Perth, where her famous father's life had ended in tragedy. She had her sights set on a career in bohemian Paris. More than a century later, Amanda Curtin faces her own questions, of life and of art, as she embarks on a journey in Kate's footsteps. Part biography, part travel narrative, this is the story of an artist who, with limited resources and despite the impacts of war and loss, worked and exhibited in Paris for over forty years. Her figure paintings, portraits and still life's, still highly prized today, form an inseparable part of the telling.

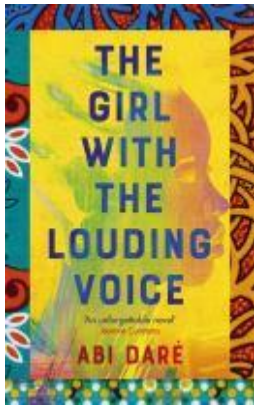
Biography - Australian author



Boy Swallows Universe / Trent Dalton (2018)

A mute brother, a junkie mum, a heroin dealer for a stepfather and a notorious crime for a babysitter. It's not as if Eli Bell's life isn't complicated enough already. He's just trying to follow his heart, but fate keeps throwing obstacles in his way - not the least of which is Tytus Broz, legendary Brisbane drug dealer. But now life is going to get a whole lot more serious: he's about to meet the father he doesn't remember, break into jail on Christmas Day to rescue his mum, come face to face with the criminals who tore his world apart, and fall in love.

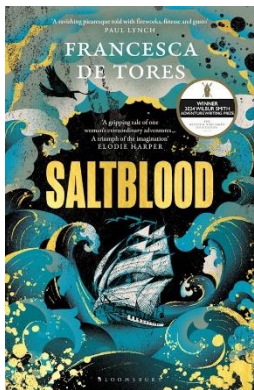
Fiction – Australian Author



The Girl with the Louding Voice / Abi Dare (2020)

Adunni is a 14 year old Nigerian girl who knows she wants an education. But instead, her father sells her to be the third wife of a local man who is eager for her to bear him a son. Adunni runs away to the city, hoping to make a better life, but finds the only other option before her is servitude to a wealthy family. But Adunni has dreams! She wants to go to school, become educated, and eventually teach. Daré's debut novel follows Adunni's journey towards achieving this lofty goal. Along the way, this delightful, spirited girl will steal your heart.

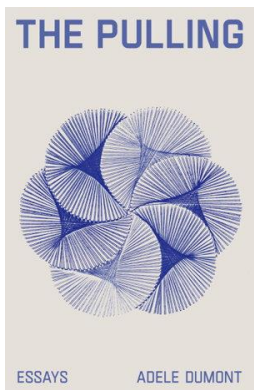
Fiction



Saltblood / Francesca De Tores (2024)

In a rented room outside Plymouth in 1685, a daughter is born as her half-brother is dying. Her mother makes a decision: Mary will become Mark and Ma will continue to collect his inheritance money. Mary's dual existence will take her to a grand house where she'll serve a French mistress; to the navy where she'll learn who to trust and how to navigate by the stars; to the army and the battlegrounds of Flanders, following her one true friend; and finding love among the bloodshed and mud. But none of this will stop her yearning for the sea. Drawn back to the water, Mary must reinvent herself yet again, for a woman aboard a ship is a dangerous thing. This time Mary will become something more dangerous than a woman. She will become a pirate.

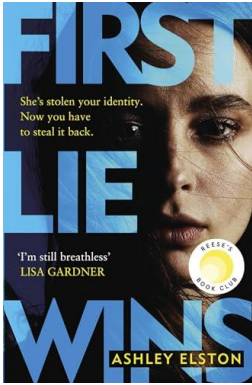
Fiction – Australian Author



The Pulling / Adele Dumont (2024)

When Adele Dumont is diagnosed with trichotillomania — compulsive hair-pulling — it makes sense of much of her life to date. The seemingly harmless quirk of her late teens, which rapidly developed into almost uncontrollable urges and then into trance-like episodes, is a hallmark of the disease, as is the secrecy with which she guarded her condition from her family, friends, and the world at large. The diagnosis also opens up a rich line of inquiry. Where might the origins of this condition be found? How can we distinguish between a nervous habit and a compulsion? And how do we balance the relief of being 'seen' by others with our experience of shame?

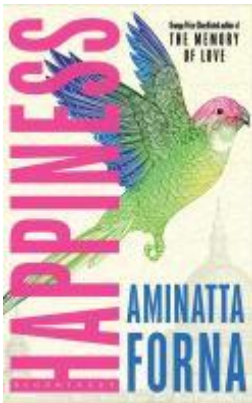
True Story – Australian Author



First Lie Wins / Ashley Elston (2024)

The identity comes first: Evie Porter. Once she's given a name and location by her mysterious boss Mr. Smith, she learns everything there is to know about the town and the people in it. Then the mark: Ryan Sumner. The last piece of the puzzle is the job. Evie isn't privy to Mr. Smith's real identity, but she knows this job will be different. Ryan has gotten under her skin, and she's starting to envision a different sort of life for herself. But Evie can't make any mistakes--especially after what happened last time. Because the one thing she's worked her entire life to keep clean, the one identity she could always go back to--her real identity--just walked right into this town

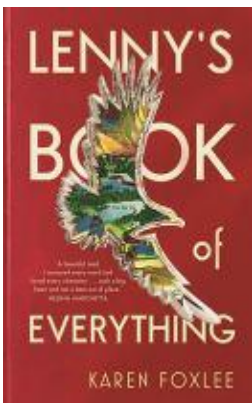
Fiction



Happiness / Aminatta Forna (2018)

Attila, a Ghanaian psychiatrist and Jean, an American studying the habits of urban foxes meet. From this chance encounter, numerous connections interweave, bringing lives together. Attila is in London to deliver a speech on trauma and to check up on the daughter of friends, who hasn't called home in a while. It emerges that she has been swept up in an immigration crackdown and now her son is missing. A tale of love and loss, of cruelty and kindness, exploring the connections with all living creatures, and the true nature of happiness.

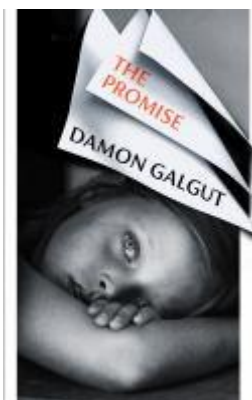
Fiction



Lenny's Book of Everything / Karen Foxlee (2018)

Lenny, small and sharp, has a younger brother Davey who won't stop growing - and at seven is as tall as a man. Raised by their mother, they have food and a roof over their heads, but not much else. The bright spot every week is the arrival of the latest issue of *Burrell's Build-it-at-Home Encyclopedia*. Through the encyclopedia, they experience the wonders of the world - and dream about a life of freedom and adventure. A book about finding good in the bad that will break your heart while raising your spirits in the way that only a classic novel can.

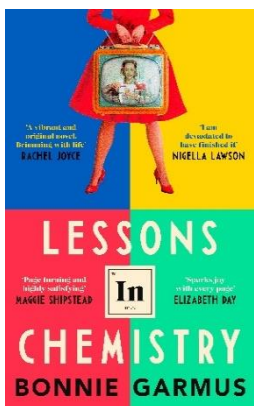
Fiction – Australian author



The Promise / Damon Galgut (2021)

A taut and menacing novel that charts the crash and burn of an Afrikaans family, the Swarts. Punctuated by funerals that bring the ever-diminishing family together, each of the four parts opens with a death and a new decade. The characterisations are razor sharp, the dialogue dramatic, the action gripping. As we traverse the decades, Damon interweaves the story of a disappointed nation from apartheid to Jacob Zuma.

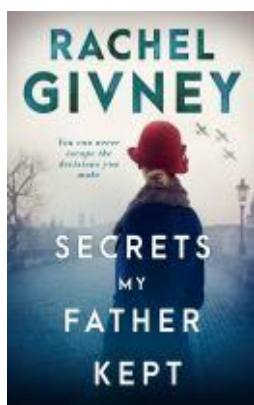
Fiction



Lessons in Chemistry / Bonnie Garmus (2022)

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute take a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with - of all things - her mind. True chemistry results. But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later, Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*.

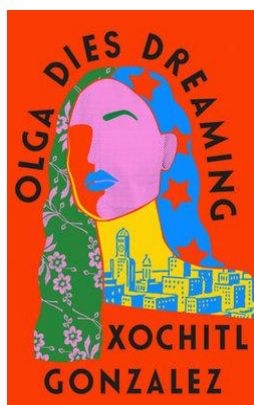
Fiction



Secrets my Father Kept / Rachel Givney (2021)

Secrets My Father Kept is a captivating novel about love, sacrifice, secrets and resilience, as the clock inexorably ticks down to a devastating world war. It's April 1939. As the Fuhrer edges towards an invasion of Poland, total war looms in Europe. However in Krakow, seventeen-year-old Marie Karska's primary concern is the unexplained disappearance of her mother fifteen years ago, and her father Dominik's unbreakable silence on the matter.

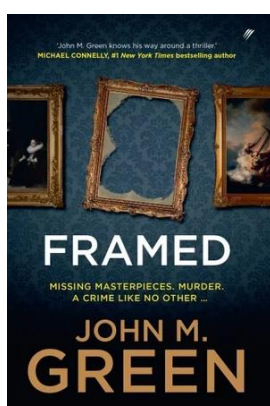
Fiction – Australian author



Olga Dies Dreaming / Xochitl Gonzalez (2022)

It's 2017, and Olga and her brother, Pedro, are bold-faced names in their hometown of New York. Prieto is a popular congressman, while Olga is the wedding planner for Manhattan's power brokers. Despite their alluring public lives, behind closed doors things are far less rosy. Olga meets Matteo, who forces her to confront the effects of long-held family secrets. Twenty-seven years ago, their mother, Blanca, abandoned her children to advance a militant political cause. Now, Blanca has come barreling back into their lives.

Fiction



Framed / John M. Green (2022)

JJ spies what she believes is a priceless Van Gogh. Except it can't be ... that painting, *Six Sunflowers*, was destroyed during World War II. She also glimpses what looks like a Rembrandt, one stolen in the infamous 1990 robbery at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. JJ sets out on a mission to discover if these works are fakes or genuine. But when she gets in too deep, she is forced to seek help from her estranged father, a Sydney detective. This gripping art heist thriller exposes a shadowy underworld where JJ crosses paths with a global organised crime empire in her pursuit to solve some of art history's biggest mysteries.

Fiction – Australian author



The Inaugural Meeting of the Fairvale Ladies Book Club / Sophie Green (2017)

In 1978 Sybil is the matriarch of Fairvale Station in the Northern Territory, run by her husband, Joe. Life is hard and people are isolated. But they find ways to connect. Their eldest son, has left the Territory - for good. It is now up to their second son, to take his brother's place. With her oldest friend, Rita, now living in Alice Springs and working for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and Ben's English wife, Kate, finding it difficult to adjust, Sybil comes up with a way to give them all companionship and purpose: they all love to read, and she forms a book club.

Fiction - Australian author



When All is Said / Anne Griffin (2019)

If you had to pick five people to sum up your life, who would they be? What would you say? What would you learn about yourself? Over the course of a night, Maurice Hannigan, an Irish farmer, orders five drinks at the Rainsford House Hotel, and with each he toasts a key person from his life: his adored older brother; his troubled sister-in-law; his daughter of fifteen minutes; his son far off in America; and his late, much missed wife. Through these people, the ones who have left him behind, he tells the story of his own life, with all its regrets and feuds, loves and triumphs.

Fiction



How to Stop Time / Matt Haig (2017)

Tom Hazard has a secret. He may look like an ordinary 41-year-old, but he was born in 1581. Owing to a rare condition, he's been alive for centuries. Tom has seen a lot, and now craves an ordinary life. Always changing his identity to stay alive, Tom now has the perfect cover - working as a history teacher at a London school. Here, he can teach the kids about wars and witch hunts as if he'd never witnessed them first-hand. The only thing Tom mustn't do is fall in love. A time-travelling story about losing and finding yourself; And about the lifetimes it can take to learn how to live.

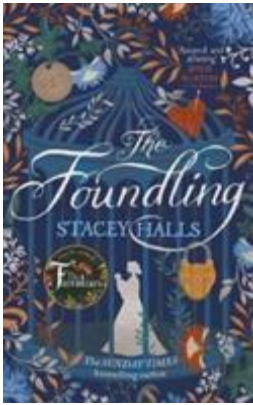
Fiction



The Midnight Library / Matt Haig (2020)

Somewhere beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, Nora Seed finds herself faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams as a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

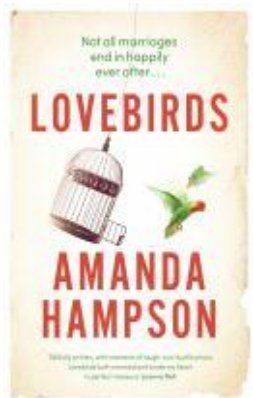
Fiction



The Foundling / Stacey Halls (2020)

1754. Six years after leaving her daughter at London's Foundling Hospital Bess returns to reclaim her. She is told that her daughter has already been reclaimed, by her. Her life is turned upside down as she tries to find out who has taken her. A young widow has not left her London house in a decade. When her friend, an ambitious doctor at the Foundling Hospital persuades her to hire a nursemaid for her daughter, she is hesitant to welcome someone new into her life. But her past is threatening to catch up and tear her carefully constructed world apart.

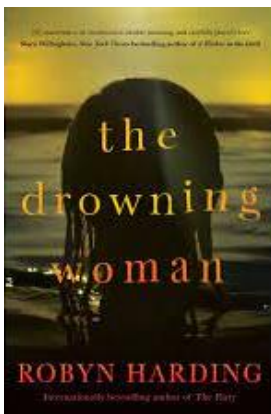
Fiction



Lovebirds / Amanda Hampson (2021)

In their youth, lovebirds Elizabeth and Ray had to fight to be together. Their future was full of promise and, blessed with children and careers, their happiness complete. But a twist of fate changed their lives forever. When her grandson, Zach, gets into trouble with the police, she decides to take him on a road trip to find his grandfather in the hope of mending their broken family. Two less compatible travelling companions would be hard to find, as they set off on an unlikely adventure into the wilds of the northern NSW hinterland. What they discover along the way, about Ray and each other, has the power to transform them all.

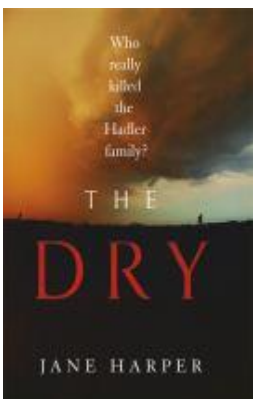
Fiction - Australian author



The Drowning Woman / Robyn Harding (2023)

Lee Gulliver has found herself living in her car, her restaurant has failed, and she's falling deeper into debt. In Seattle, she parks in a secluded spot by the beach to lay low and plan her next move – until early one morning, she sees a sobbing woman throw herself into the ocean. Lee hauls the woman back to the surface but, instead of appreciation, she is met with fury. The drowning woman, Hazel, tells her that she wanted to die. She's trapped in a toxic, abusive marriage, and a prisoner in her own home. Lee thinks she's seen the last of her, until Hazel unexpectedly returns the next morning. The two form unlikely friendship. And then one day, Hazel makes a shocking request: she wants Lee to help her disappear.

Fiction



The Dry / Jane Harper (2016)

Tensions in the small country town Kiewarra become unbearable when three members of a family are brutally murdered. Everyone thinks Luke committed suicide after slaughtering his wife and young son. Policeman Aaron Falk returns to the town of his youth for the funeral of his childhood friend, and is drawn into the investigation. As Falk probes deeper into the killings, secrets from his past and why he left home bubble to the surface as he questions the truth of the crime.

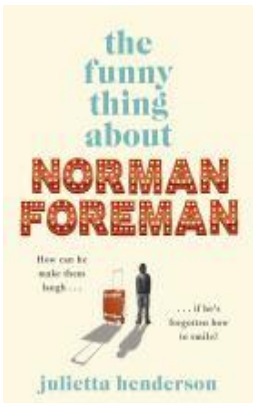
Fiction - Australian author



Alice to Prague / Tanya Heaslip (2019)

In 1994, Tanya Heaslip left her safe life as a lawyer in outback Australia and travelled to the post-communist Czech Republic. She had always dreamt of adventure and romance in Europe but the Czech Republic was not the stuff of her dreams. On arrival, however, this land of castles, history and culture opened up to her and her to it. In love with Prague and her people, particularly with the charismatic Karel, who takes her into his home, his family, Tanya learns about lives very different to hers. A story of a search for identity, belonging and love.

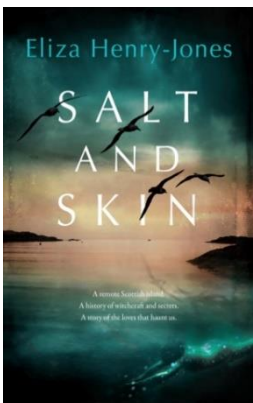
True Story - Australian author



The Funny Thing about Norman Foreman / Julietta Henderson (2021)

Norman and Jax are a legendary comedy duo in the making, with a five-year plan to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe by the time they're fifteen. But then Jax dies before they even turn twelve. Norman's mum, Sadie, is heartbroken when she discovers her grieving son's revised plan: 'Find Dad' and 'Get to the Edinburgh Fringe'. If meeting his dad and performing at the Festival are the two things that will help Norman through this devastating time, then Sadie is going to make them happen. So they set off to Edinburgh - to honour Jax and to track down a few maybe-fathers on the way.

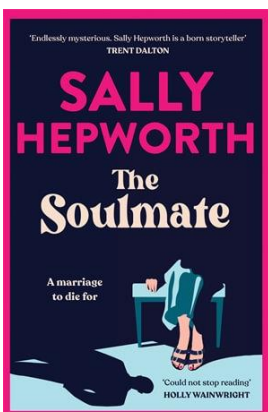
Fiction - Australian author



Salt and Skin / Eliza Henry-Jones (2022)

Grief-stricken over the loss of her husband, Luda Managan and her two teenaged children try to make a home for themselves on a collection of harsh and haunted Scottish islands. Luda, a photographer, turns her attention to the records from the 17th century island witch-hunts and the fragmented life stories of the executed women. Min, restless and strong, tries to fill up the space in their family left by her father. She soon finds comfort in the depths of the icy North Sea and in an unlikely friendship with the elderly and irreverent local 'witch'. The only thing that beautiful and gifted Darcy cares about is getting marks high enough for entry into university – one very, very far away from his mother. Until he meets the wild foundling, Theo.

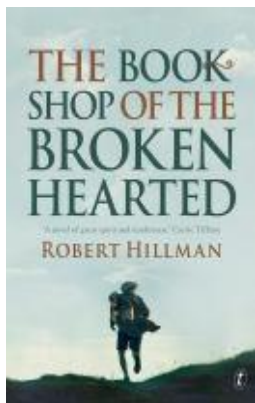
Fiction - Australian author



The Soulmate / Sally Hepworth (2022)

Before the woman went over the cliff, Pippa and Gabe were happy. They have the kind of marriage that everyone envies, as well as two sweet young daughters, a supportive family, and a picturesque cliff-side home - which would have been idyllic had the tall beachside cliffs not become so popular among those wishing to end their lives. Gabe has become somewhat of a local hero since they moved to the cliff house, talking seven people down from stepping off the edge. But when Gabe fails to save the eighth, Amanda, a sordid web of secrets begins to unravel, pushing bonds of loyalty and love to the brink. What wouldn't you do for your soulmate?

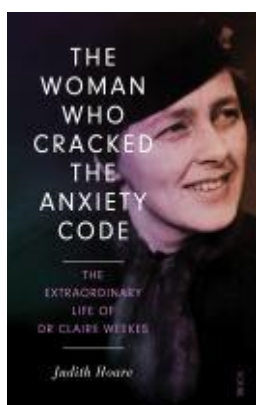
Fiction – Australian author



The Bookshop of the Broken Hearted / Robert Hillman (2018)

Tom isn't much of a farmer, but he's doing his best. He can't have been much of a husband to Trudy, either, judging by her departure. It's only when she returns, pregnant to someone else, that he discovers his talent as a father. So when Trudy leaves again taking little Peter away with her, Tom's heart breaks all over again. Enter Hannah, Tom dares to believe they could be happy. But it is 1968: twenty-four years since Hannah and her own little boy arrived at Auschwitz. Tom Hope is taking on a battle with heartbreak he can barely even begin to imagine.

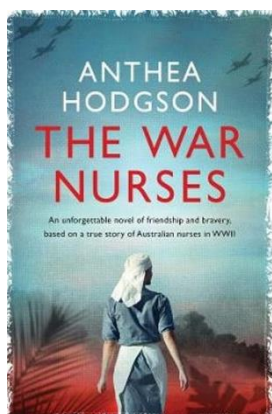
Fiction - Australian author



The Woman who Cracked the Anxiety Code: the Extraordinary Life of Dr Claire Weekes / Judith Hoare (2019)

Australian Dr Claire Weekes knew how to treat anxiety, but was dismissed as underqualified by the psychiatric establishment. So she went directly to the people. *Self Help for Your Nerves*, first published in 1962 and still in print, helped millions of people, and continues to do so. She got a Science degree before moving on to a career in medicine. But it was a mistaken diagnosis of tuberculosis that pushed her towards integrating all she'd learned into a practical treatment for anxiety - now seen as state-of-the-art 30 years after her death.

Biography - Australian author



The War Nurses / Anthea Hodgson (2023)

In 1941, country girls Minnie Hodgson and Margot McNee set sail from Perth, Australia, for Singapore, keen to do their part working as nurses to the fallen soldiers in a time of war. When the Japanese attack and Singapore falls, they are forced to flee aboard the Vyner Brooke. The ship is bombed, resulting in utter devastation. Separated in the mayhem, one group of nurses find themselves in prisoner-of-war camps for the duration of the war, surviving on their wits, with humour, dignity, loyalty and determination. But another group of young Australian nurses - the girls on the beach - are washed ashore on Bangka Island, where they will meet a fate that must never be forgotten.

Fiction – Australian author



Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine / Gail Honeyman (2017)

Eleanor Oliphant struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully time-tabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. Everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living.

Fiction



We were the Lucky Ones / Georgia Hunter (2017)

It is 1939 and three generations of the Kurc family are doing their best, but soon the horrors overtaking Europe will become inescapable and the Kurcs will be flung to the far corners of the world, each desperately trying to navigate their own path to safety. As one is forced into exile, another attempts to flee the continent, while others struggle to escape certain death, either by working gruelling hours on empty stomachs or by hiding as gentiles in plain sight. Driven by fear that they may never see one another again, they must rely on hope and inner strength to persevere.

Fiction



The Secret Life of Shirley Sullivan / Lisa Ireland (2020)

When Shirley signs her 83-year-old husband, Frank, out of the Nursing Home, she has no intention of bringing him back. For 53 years the couple has shared love, happiness and heartbreak. And while Frank may not know who his wife is these days, he knows he wants to go home. Back to the beach where they met in the early 1960s... So Shirley enacts an elaborate plan to evade the authorities - and their furious daughter, Fiona - to give Frank the holiday he'd always dreamed of. And, in doing so, perhaps Shirley can make amends for a lifelong guilty secret...

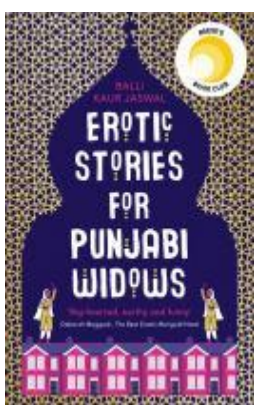
Fiction - Australian author



The Happiest Man on Earth / Eddie Jaku (2020)

Eddie Jaku always considered himself a German first, a Jew second. He was proud of his country. But all of that changed on 9 November 1938, when he was beaten, arrested and taken to a concentration camp. Over the next seven years, Eddie faced unimaginable horrors every day. He lost family, friends, his country. Because he survived, Eddie made the vow to smile every day. He pays tribute to those who were lost by telling his story, sharing his wisdom and living his best possible life. He now believes he is the 'happiest man on earth'.

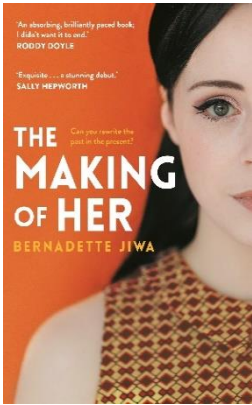
Biography - Australian author



Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows / Balli Kaur Jaswal (2017)

Nikki takes a creative writing job at her local temple, with visions of emancipating the women there, she discovers a group of barely literate women who have no interest in her ideals. These women have spent their lives in the shadows of fathers and husbands; being dutiful, raising children and going to temple, but whose inner lives are as rich and fruitful as their untold stories. But as they begin to open up to each other about womanhood, and the dark secrets within the community, Nikki realises that the illicit nature of the class may place them all in danger.

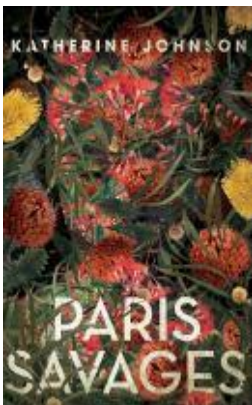
Fiction



The Making of Her / Bernadette Jiwa (2022)

Dublin 1966. When Joan Quinn, a factory girl from the Cranmore Estate, marries Martin Egan, it looks like her dreams have come true. But all is not as it seems. Joan lives in the shadow of a secret – the couple's decision to give up their first daughter for adoption only months before. For the next three decades, Joan's marriage and her relationship with her second child Carmel suffer as a consequence. Then one day in 1996, a letter arrives from their eldest daughter. Emma needs her birth parents' help; it's a matter of life and death. And the fragile facade of Joan's life finally begins to crack.

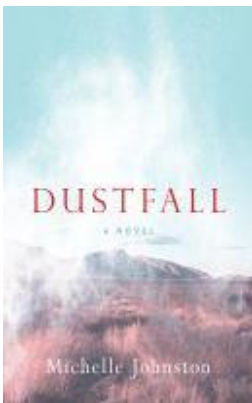
Fiction – Australian author



Paris Savages / Katherine Johnson (2019)

In 1882 the population of the Badtjala people is in sharp decline. When Louis Müller offers to sail Bonny and two other young Aboriginal people to Europe, in the hope of seeking help from the Queen - in exchange for performing to huge crowds – Bonny agrees. Crowds in Europe are enthusiastic to see the unique dances, singing, and fights, from the oldest culture in the world, but the attention is relentless, and the fascination of scientists intrusive. When disaster strikes, Bonny must find a way to return home.

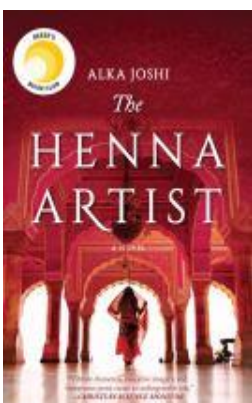
Fiction - Australian author



Dustfall / Michelle Johnston (2018)

Dr Filigree, running from a disastrous medical career, mistakes an unknown name on a map for the perfect refuge. He travels to Wittenoom and discovers an asbestos mining corporation with no regard for the safety of its workers and no care for the truth. Thirty years later, Dr Fitzgerald stumbles across the abandoned Wittenoom Hospital. She, too, is a fugitive from a medical career toppled by a single error. Here she discovers faded letters and barely used medical equipment, and, slowly the story of the hospital's tragic past comes to her.

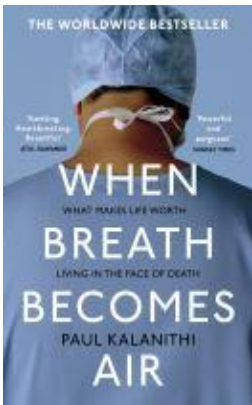
Fiction - Australian author



The Henna Artist / Alka Joshi (2020)

Escaping from an abusive marriage, 17-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist and confidante. As she pursues her dream of an independent life, she is startled one day when she is confronted by her husband, who has tracked her down years later with a high-spirited young girl in tow - a sister Lakshmi never knew she had. Suddenly the discreet life she has carefully cultivated is threatened. Still she perseveres, applying her talents and lifting up those that surround her.

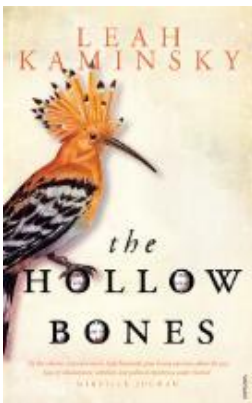
Fiction



When Breath Becomes Air / Paul Kalanithi (2016)

At 36, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. A profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir by a young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis who attempts to answer the question 'What makes a life worth living?'

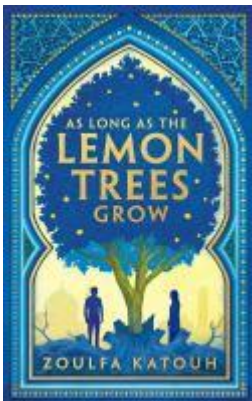
Biography



The Hollow Bones / Leah Kaminsky (2019)

Berlin, 1936. Ernst Schäfer, a young, ambitious zoologist and keen hunter and collector, has come to the attention of Heinrich Himmler, who invites him to lead a group of SS scientists to the frozen mountains of Tibet. Their secret mission: to search for the origins of the Aryan race. Ernst has doubts initially, but soon seizes the opportunity to rise through the ranks of the Third Reich. While Ernst prepares for the trip, he marries Herta, his childhood sweetheart. But Herta, a flautist who refuses to play from the songbook of womanhood and marriage under the Reich, grows increasingly suspicious of Ernst and his expedition. When Ernst and his colleagues finally leave Germany in 1938, they realise the world has its eyes fixed on the horror they have left behind in their homeland.

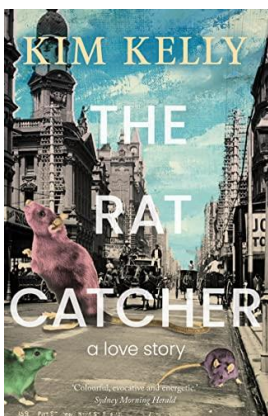
Fiction – Australian Author



As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow / Zoulfa Katouh (2022)

Salama Kassab was a pharmacy student when the cries for freedom broke out in Syria. She still had her parents and her big brother; she still had her home. She had a normal teenager's life. Now Salama volunteers at a hospital in Homs, helping the wounded who flood through the doors daily. Secretly, though, she is desperate to find a way out of her beloved country before her sister-in-law, Layla, gives birth. So desperate, that she has manifested a physical embodiment of her fear in the form of her imagined companion, Khawf, who haunts her every move in an effort to keep her safe.

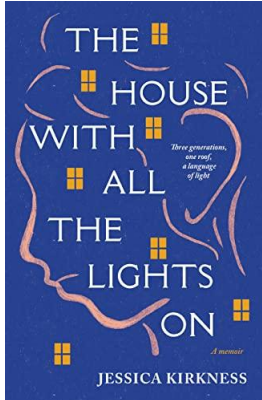
Fiction



The Rat Catcher: a love story / Kim Kelly (2022)

In the summer of 1900, Patrick O'Reilly is down on his luck in the slums of Sydney and homesick for Tralee. When a deadly outbreak of plague descends on the city, O'Reilly's mind is miles away, in the golden hair and kindly, confident air of a girl called Rosie Hughes. Opportunity knocks with the offer of a job as a rat catcher working for the city's Plague Department, containing the spread of disease. In the Public Lending Library, on the top floor of the Queen Victoria Building, above the bustling centre of Sydney, he comes face-to-face with a legendary rat called Old Scratch who will change the way he understands himself and the world forever.

Fiction – Australian author



The House With All the Lights On / Jessica Kirkness (2023)

Jessica Kirkness has traversed the boundary between deaf and hearing cultures all her life. Her memoir tells the story of her grandparents who grew up deaf in a hearing world-one where sign language was banned for much of the twentieth century-and weaves in her own experience as a hearing child in a family that often struggled to navigate their elders' difference. This journey takes her from the family home to the workplaces of research audiologists, and back to England where she visits her grandparents' old schools and other family landmarks-discovering along the way how terribly their deafness has been misunderstood.

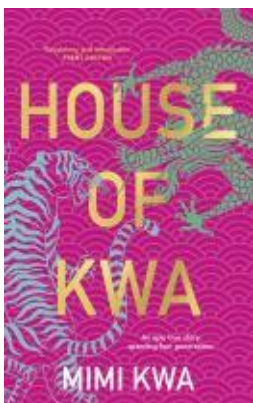
Biography – Australian author



Wintering / Krissy Kneen (2018)

When Jessica's partner disappears into the dark Tasmanian forest, there is the mystery of what happened to him, a deserted car and the enigmatic final image on his phone; There is the circle of local women, with their fellowship and unhinged theories; the forest itself looming over the tiny settlement. For Jessica there is also the community in which she is still a stranger and he was not. What secrets do they know that she doesn't? Why do they believe things that cannot be true? Jessica needs to know two things. Who was Matthew? And what has he become?

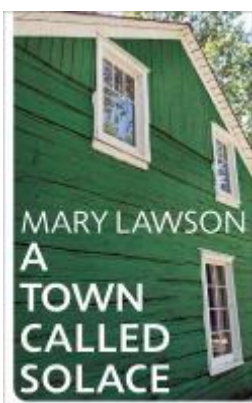
Fiction - Australian author



House of Kwa / Mimi Kwa (2021)

Mimi Kwa ignored the letter for days. When she finally opened it, the news was so shocking her hair turned grey. Why would a father sue his own daughter? The collision was over the estate of Mimi's beloved Aunt Theresa, but its seed had been sown long ago. In an attempt to understand how it had come to this, Mimi unspools her rich family history in House of Kwa. One of a wealthy silk merchant's 32 children, Mimi's father, Francis, was just a little boy when the Kwa family became caught up in the brutal and devastating Japanese occupation of Hong Kong during World War II.

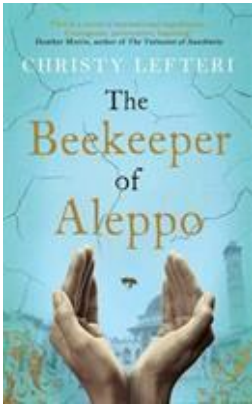
Biography - Australian author



A Town called Solace / Mary Lawson (2021)

Set in Northern Ontario in 1972, A Town Called Solace is a novel about childhood trauma, painful histories that need reckoning with and the moments in life when we can change for the better and explores the relationships of three people brought together by fate and the mistakes of the past. By turns gripping and darkly funny, it uncovers the layers of grief and remorse and love that connect us, but shows that sometimes a new life is possible.

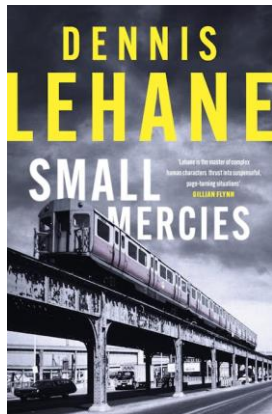
Fiction



Beekeeper of Aleppo / Christy Lefteri (2019)

Nuri is a beekeeper; his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life in the Syrian city of Aleppo. When all they care for is destroyed by war, they are forced to escape. But what Afra has seen is so terrible she has gone blind. They embark on a perilous journey through Turkey and Greece towards an uncertain future in Britain. Nuri is sustained by the knowledge that waiting for them is his cousin who has started an apiary and is teaching fellow refugees to keep bees. As they travel, they must confront their own pain, and dangers that would overwhelm the bravest of souls.

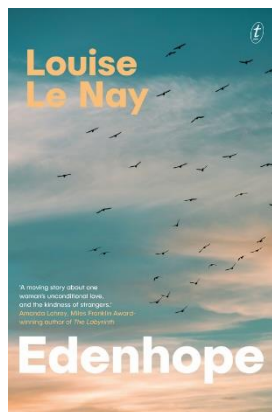
Fiction



Small Mercies / Dennis Lehane (2023)

In the summer of 1974 a heatwave blankets Boston and Mary Pat Fennessey is trying to stay one step ahead of the bill collectors. One night Mary Pat's teenage daughter Jules stays out late and doesn't come home. That same evening, a young Black man is found dead, struck by a subway train under mysterious circumstances. The two events seem unconnected. But Mary Pat, propelled by a desperate search for her missing daughter, begins turning over stones best left untouched - asking questions that bother Marty Butler, chieftain of the Irish mob, and the men who work for him, men who don't take kindly to any threat to their business

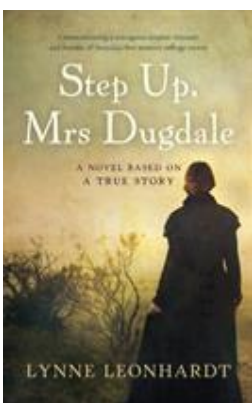
Fiction



Edenhope / Louise Le Nay (2024)

Marnie is sixty-three and downwardly mobile. Her middle-class marriage is long gone, her only child more or less estranged. She's living in a granny flat behind a stranger's house. Still, things could be worse. She likes her new boss, Trinh, and her flat has a leadlight window depicting a galleon in full sail. Also, her daughter Lenny has just brought Marnie's adored grandchildren to stay. She's also brought her repellent boyfriend and raging drug habit, so nothing new there. But this time it's different. This time Marnie can see with absolute clarity the danger the children are in. And this time - she's going to do something about it. This is the revelatory story of an ordinary woman who will let nothing, not even the law, stand in the way of her grandchildren's safety.

Fiction - Australian Author



Step up Mrs Dugdale: a Novel Based on a True Story / Lynne Leonhardt (2019)

In 1867, Henrietta Augusta Dugdale, is pushed to breaking point and leaves her fourteen-year marriage. With access to her children denied, she enters the freethinking world of Melbourne bohemia and sets out to change the law that casts women as property, with no legal rights of their own. A fearless crusader for women's justice, 'Mrs D.' outclasses those who try to silence or belittle her, all the while haunted by the loss of her three sons, the dark undercurrents of the past and the mysterious fate of her first love.

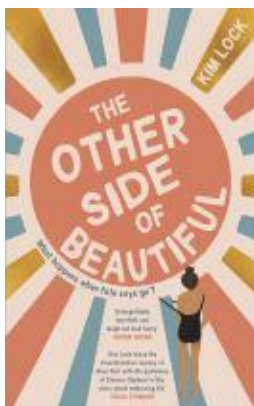
Fiction - Australian author



The Coast / Eleanor Limprecht (2022)

Alice is only nine years old in 1910 when she is sent to the feared Coast Hospital lazaret at Little Bay in Sydney, a veritable prison where more patients are admitted than will ever leave. She is told that she's visiting her mother, who disappeared one day when Alice was two. Once there, Alice learns her mother is suffering from leprosy and that she has the same disease. Filled with vivid descriptions of the wild beauty of the sea cliffs and beaches surrounding the harsh isolation of the lazaret, and written in evocative prose, *The Coast* is meticulously researched historical fiction that holds a mirror to the present day. Heartbreaking and soul-lifting, it is a universal story of love, courage, sacrifice and resilience.

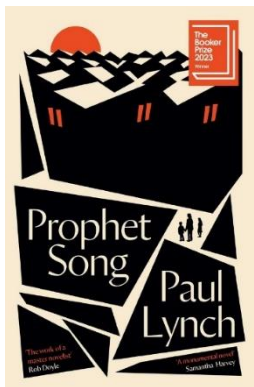
Fiction



The Other Side of Beautiful / Kim Lock (2021)

Mercy Blain's house has just burnt down and she hasn't been outside that house for two years. Flung out into the world she's been ignoring, Mercy goes to her not-quite-ex-husband Eugene's house, but she can't stay there. After purchasing a classic campervan and with her sausage dog, Wasabi, a mysterious box of cremated remains, Mercy heads north from Adelaide to Darwin in an unwilling journey. On the road Mercy's carefully constructed walls start crumbling. What was Mercy hiding from in her house? And why is Eugene desperate to have her back in the city?

Fiction - Australian author



Prophet Song / Paul Lynch (2023)

On a dark, wet evening in Dublin, scientist and mother-of-four Eilish Stack answers her front door to find the GNSB on her doorstep. Two officers from Ireland's newly formed secret police want to speak with her husband, Larry, a trade unionist for the Teachers' Union of Ireland. Things are falling apart. Ireland is in the grip of a government that is taking a turn towards tyranny. And as the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, Eilish finds herself caught within the nightmare logic of a collapsing society assailed by unpredictable forces beyond her control and forced to do whatever it takes to keep her family together.

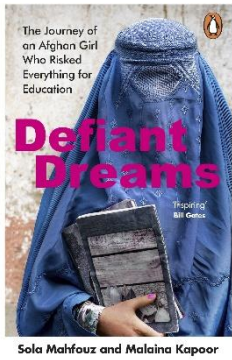
Fiction



The Animals in that Country / Laura Jean McKay (2020)

Jean is a tough middle aged woman who works in a wildlife park. She loves her granddaughter, Kimberly. Jean also has a soft spot for a young dingo called Sue. News arrives of a pandemic sweeping the country, its chief symptom being its victims begin to understand the language of animals - Many people begin to lose their minds, including Jean's infected son, Lee. When he takes off with Kimberly, Jean follows. Setting off on their trail, with Sue, they find themselves in a world where the animal apocalypse has only further isolated people from other species.

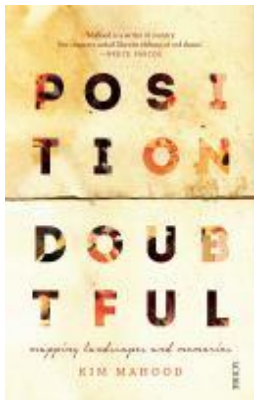
Fiction – Australian author



Defiant Dreams / Sola Mahfouz (2024)

At age eleven, Sola Mahfouz was told she could no longer attend school. The Taliban threatened that any girl who dared to continue their education would have acid thrown in their face, be kidnapped, or worse. Confined to the walls of her home, Sola watched as the few freedoms of childhood were stripped away. She was forbidden to play, to sing, even to laugh. Her early teenage years were consumed by restrictions. Realising that she would have to either succumb to this life or find a way out, she decided on the latter. At age sixteen, without even a basic ability to add or subtract, she began secretly learning maths and English. By reading dictionaries and taking free online courses, she taught herself theoretical physics and philosophy, all from a home she could only leave five times a year. In the space of nine years she achieved the level of education that a westerner might take 25 years to do and against all odds moved to America to study quantum computing.

Biography



Position Doubtful / Kim Mahood (2017)

Kim Mahood has returned to the Tanami desert country in far north-western Australia where, as a child, she lived with her family on a remote cattle station. The land is timeless, but much has changed: the station has been handed back to its traditional owners; the mining companies have arrived; and Indigenous art has flourished. She immerses herself in the life of a small community and in ground breaking mapping projects. What emerges is a revelation of the significance of the land to its people - and of the burden of history.

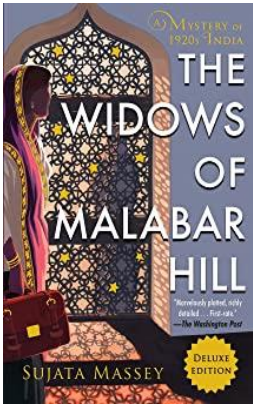
True Story - Australian author



Sorrow and Bliss / Meg Mason (2020)

This book is about many things - it's about motherhood, mental illnesses and the stigma around them. It's also about the love between sisters, the complexities and layers of romantic relationships, and so much more. At the center of it all, we follow Martha. She's been wrestling with life and mental stability (and ultimately, happiness) ever since experiencing a mental breakdown that occurred when she was 17. The contradictions and nuances of the middle-class family dynamics are painstakingly rendered with moving familiarity and black humour.

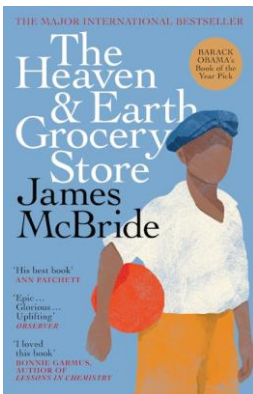
Fiction



The Widows of Malabar Hill / Sujata Massey (2018)

Perveen Mistry, the daughter of a respected Zoroastrian family, has just joined her father's law firm, becoming one of the first female lawyers in India. Mistry Law has been appointed to execute the will of Mr. Omar Farid, but as Perveen examines the paperwork, she notices something strange: all three of the wives have signed over their full inheritance to a charity. Perveen is suspicious, tries to investigate, and realizes her instincts were correct when tensions escalate to murder. Now it is her responsibility to figure out what really happened on Malabar Hill, and to ensure that no innocent women or children are in further danger.

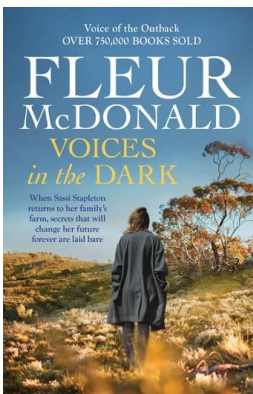
Fiction



The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store / James McBride (2023)

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighbourhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it.

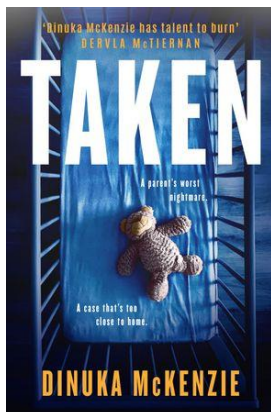
Fiction



Voices in the Dark / Fleur McDonald (2023)

When Sassi Stapleton receives a phone call to tell her that her beloved grandmother is unwell, she quickly puts her job on hold, packs her ute and sets off on the long drive home, knowing her grandfather will need her. Less than an hour away from Sassi's hometown, Barker, she swerves to miss a roo and her car rolls down an embankment. By the time Sassi is found, her grandmother has already passed away. On the other side of the world, Sassi's estranged mother, Amber, receives a similar call and shocks the whole family when she flies home from South Africa. What is she really doing at home with a father she's barely spoken to since she left years ago? And will Amber and Sassi ever be able to reconnect?

Fiction – Australian Author



Taken / Dinuka McKenzie (2023)

Detective Sergeant Kate Miles is back from maternity leave and struggling on multiple fronts - the pressures of a second child, financial strain from her husband losing his job, and a corruption scandal that may involve her father. When an infant goes missing, Kate finds herself fronting a high-profile and emotionally fraught case. Was baby Sienna removed from her bassinet by an unknown abductor or is the answer much closer to home? Amidst a frenzied media demanding answers, and a station chief looking for any reason to remove her from the investigation, Kate is pushed to her limits, pulled between the competing demands of the family at the centre of the case and her own spiralling personal life.

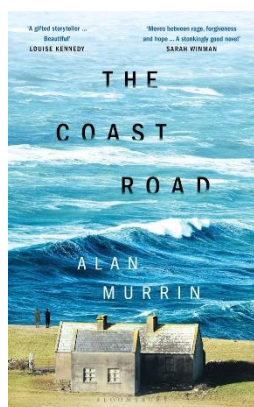
Fiction – Australian Author



The Ghost of Gracie Flynn / Joanna Morrison (2022)

Two deaths, eighteen years apart. A tension-filled mystery by debut author Joanna Morrison. Gracie Flynn may be dead, but she's not gone. Three university friends are divided by a tragic death. Eighteen years later, chance reunites them. Robyn is still haunted by memories of her best friend Gracie, and Cohen's heart has never healed. Only Sam seems to have moved on and found success and happiness. But death rocks their lives again when Sam's body is found in mysterious circumstances. And the ghost of Gracie Flynn has a story to tell about the night that changed their lives forever.

Fiction - Australian author



The Coast Road / Alan Murrin (2018)

It's 1994 in County Donegal, Ireland, and everyone is talking about Colette Crowley, the writer, the bohemian, the woman who left her husband and sons to pursue a relationship with a married man in Dublin. But now Colette is back, and nobody knows why. Returning to the community to try and reclaim her old life, Colette quickly learns that they are unwilling to give it back to her. The man to whom she is still married is denying her access to her children, and while the legalisation of divorce might be just around the corner, Colette finds herself caught between her old life and the freedom for which she risked everything. Desperate to see her children, she enlists the help of Izzy, a mother of two, and the women forge a friendship that will send them on a spiralling journey, one toward a path of self-discovery, and the other toward tragedy.

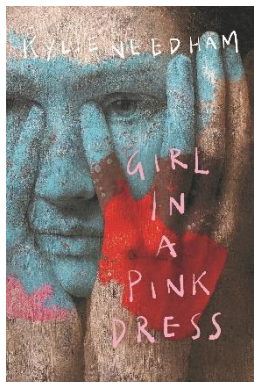
Fiction



The Sixteen Trees of Somme / Lars Mytting (2018)

Edvard grows up on a remote mountain farmstead in Norway with his grandfather. The death of his parents, when he was three, has always been shrouded in mystery - he has never been told how or where it took place. But he knows that the fate of his grandfather's brother, is somehow bound up with this mystery. Edvard's desperate quest to unlock the family's tragic secrets takes him on a long journey - from Norway to the Shetlands, and to the battlefields of France - to the discovery of a very unusual inheritance. A beautifully intricate tale that spans an entire century.

Fiction

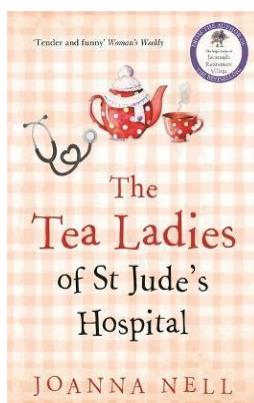


Girl in a Pink Dress / Kylie Needham (2023)

Far away from the glittering lights and famous personalities of the Sydney art world she once knew, Frances now lives a quiet life in a remote mountain town, pursuing her art. When an invitation arrives from a former lover to attend his painting exhibition at a celebrated gallery, Frances is plunged back into the past, when a single act changed the course of her life.

Told across two time periods, *Girl in a Pink Dress* is a sharp-eyed and compelling story about love and art, about sacrifice and ambition, and the often damaging relationship between artist and muse.

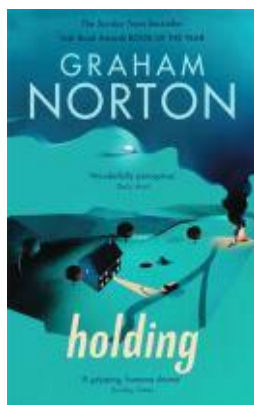
Fiction – Australian Author



The Tea Ladies of St Jude's Hospital / Joanna Nell (2021)

The Marjorie Marshall Memorial Cafeteria has been serving refreshments and raising money at the hospital for over fifty years, long after anybody can remember who Marjorie Marshall actually was. Staffed by dedicated volunteers, the beloved cafeteria is known as much for offering a kind word and sympathetic ear (and often unsolicited life advice) as for its tea and buns. Stalwart Hilary has worked her way up through the ranks to Manageress; Joy has been late every day since she started as the cafeteria's newest recruit. Seventeen-year-old Chloe is volunteering during the school holidays because her mother thinks it will look good on her CV. When they discover the cafeteria is under threat of closure, this unlikely trio must band together to save it.

Fiction



Holding / Graham Norton (2017)

Duneen is a quiet place, its residents include cast down policeman PJ who lives a lonely, uneventful life punctuated only by the next meal; the beautiful and mysterious family of three spinster sisters each with their own secrets and sorrows; and of course, the town's gossip who think she knows the answers. When a grim discovery is made on a building site up by the old school, it becomes the catalyst for long buried secrets and rivalries to come to light and this silent, once innocent and repressed-seeming town is revealed to have a much darker, hungrier undertow.

Fiction



Hamnet / Maggie O'Farrell (2021)

Warwickshire in the 1580s. Agnes is a woman as feared as she is sought after for her unusual gifts. She settles with her husband in Henley Street, Stratford, and has three children: a daughter, Susanna, and then twins, Hamnet and Judith. The boy, Hamnet, dies in 1596, aged eleven. Four years or so later, the husband writes a play called Hamlet. Drawing on her long-term fascination with the little-known story behind Shakespeare's most enigmatic play.

Fiction



Shell / Kristina Olsson (2018)

In 1965, as Danish architect's striking vision for the Sydney Opera House transforms the skyline and unleashes a storm of controversy, the shadow of the Vietnam War and a deadly lottery threaten to tear the country apart. In this big, bold and hauntingly beautiful portrait of art and life, *Shell* captures a world on the brink of seismic change through the eyes of two unforgettable characters caught in the eye of the storm. And it reminds us why taking a side matters.

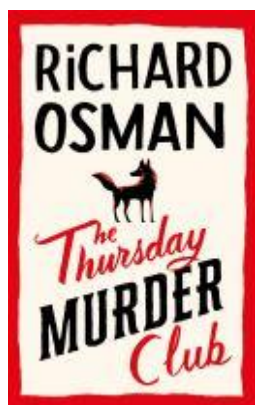
Fiction - Australian author



1984 / George Orwell (1949)

Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth in what remains of a Britain ravaged by revolution. His every move is monitored by the Thought Police, who are responsible for detecting dissent against the Party and its leader, Big Brother-and eliminating it. When he meets Julia, Winston thinks he might have found love, and a fellow loather of the Party. But when the pair are arrested and sent to the sinister Room 101 for re-education, their bond-and commitment to their shared cause-will be tested to its limits.

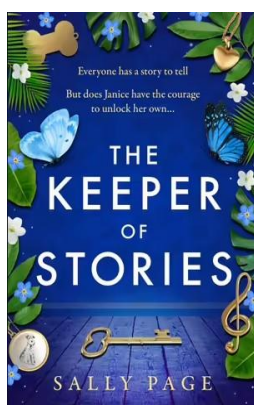
Classic Fiction



The Thursday Murder Club / Richard Osman (2020)

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

Fiction



The Keeper of Stories / Sally Page (2022)

Cleaner Janice knows that it is in people's stories that you really get to know them. When Janice starts cleaning for Mrs B – a shrewd and tricky woman in her nineties – she finally meets someone who wants to hear her story. But Janice is clear: she is the keeper of stories, she doesn't have a story to tell. At least, not one she can share. Mrs B is no fool and knows there is more to Janice than meets the eye. What is she hiding? After all, doesn't everyone have a story to tell?

Fiction

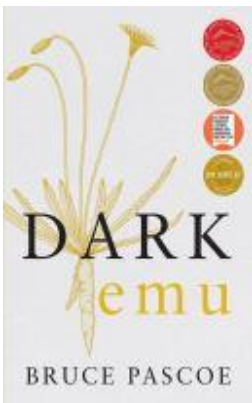
The Stoning / Peter Papathanasiou (2021)



A small outback town wakes to a savage murder, a local teacher is found taped to a tree & stoned to death. Suspicion falls on the refugees at the new detention centre. Tensions are high between immigrants & the town's residents. Detective Sergeant George Manolis is despatched to his childhood hometown to investigate. The town once thrived and now it's disturbingly poor and derelict, with a local police chief it seemingly deserves. As Manolis negotiates his new colleague's antagonism, the anger of a community destroyed by alcohol and drugs, the ghosts of his past flicker to life. His work is his calling and now he finds the certainties of his life are crumbling.

Fiction – Australian author

Dark Emu: Aboriginal Australia and the Birth of Agriculture / Bruce Pascoe (2018)



Argues for a reconsideration of the 'hunter-gatherer' tag for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians and attempts to rebut the colonial myths that have worked to justify dispossession. The evidence insists that Aboriginal people right across the continent were using domesticated plants, sowing, harvesting, irrigating and storing. Compelling evidence from the diaries of early explorers that suggests that systems of food production and land management have been understated in modern retellings of Aboriginal history, and that a new look at Australia's past is required.

Historical Non-fiction - Australian author

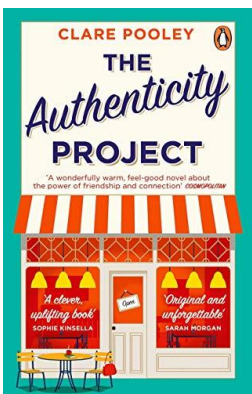
The Dutch House / Ann Patchett (2019)



Cyril begins a real estate empire, propelling his family to enormous wealth. He buys the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs. The house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. The story is told by Cyril's son Danny, as he and his sister are exiled from the house by their stepmother. This is a tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past. But when at last they're forced to confront the people who left them behind, the relationship between brother and sister is finally tested.

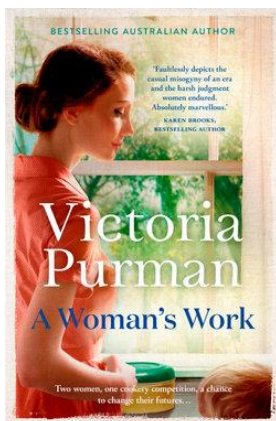
Fiction

The Authenticity Project / Clare Pooley (2020)



One green notebook. Six strangers. The chance to start being honest... Six strangers with one universal thing in common: their lives aren't always what they make them out to be. But what would happen if they told the truth instead? Julian begins The Authenticity Project - a small green notebook containing his 'truth' - to pass on and encourage others to share their own. Little does he know that this small act of honesty will impact all those who come into contact with the book, and lead to a life-changing world of friendship and forgiveness...

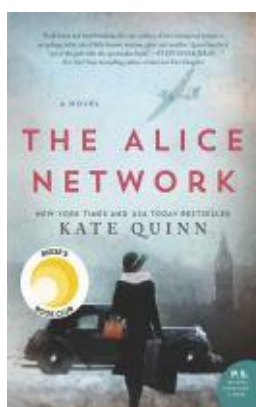
Fiction



A Woman's Work / Victoria Purman (2023)

It's 1956, and while Melbourne is in a frenzy gearing up for the Olympics, the women of Australia are cooking up a storm for their chance to win the equivalent of a year's salary in the extraordinary Australian Women's Weekly cookery contest. For two women, in particular, the prize could be life-changing. For war widow and single mum Ivy Quinn, a win would mean more time to spend with her twelve-year-old son, Raymond. Mother of five Kathleen O'Grady has no time for cooking competitions, but the prize could offer her a different kind of life for herself and her children, and the chance to control her own future.

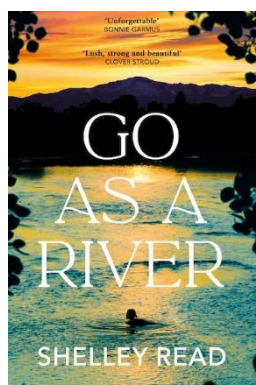
Fiction – Australian Author



The Alice Network / Kate Quinn (2017)

At the end of World War II, American college girl Charlie is pregnant and unmarried. She's also hoping that her cousin Rose, who disappeared in France, might still be alive. So when Charlie's parents banish her to Europe, Charlie heads to London, determined to find out what happened to Rose. During the War, Eve is recruited to work as a spy. 30 years later, haunted by the betrayal that ultimately tore apart the Alice Network, Eve spends her days drunk and secluded in her London house. Until a young American barges in uttering a name Eve hasn't heard in decades.

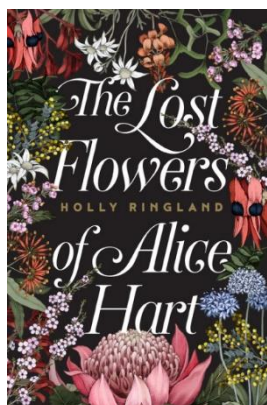
Fiction



Go as a River / Shelley Read (2023)

On a cool autumn morning, Victoria Nash heads into her village pulling a rickety wagon filled with late-season peaches. As she nears an intersection, a stranger in town stops to ask her the way. She makes the decision to walk with him. 'Go as a river,' he tells her as they part ways. So begins a mesmerising story of split-second decisions and considered acts that make up one woman's tumultuous life, as Victoria begins to absorb and follow his words.

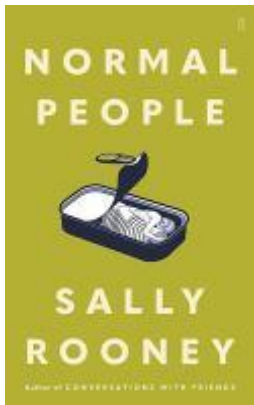
Fiction



The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart / Holly Ringland (2018)

After her family suffers a tragedy when she is nine years old, Alice Hart is forced to leave her idyllic seaside home. She is taken in by her estranged grandmother, June, a flower farmer who raises Alice on the language of Australian native flowers, a way to say the things that are too hard to speak. But Alice also learns that there are secrets within secrets about her past. Under the watchful eye of June and The Flowers, women who run the farm, Alice grows up. But an unexpected betrayal sends her reeling, and she flees to the dramatically beautiful central Australian desert. Alice thinks she has found solace, until she falls in love with Dylan, a charismatic and ultimately dangerous man.

Fiction – Australian author



Normal People / Sally Rooney (2018)

Connell and Marianne both grow up in the same town in rural Ireland. The similarities end there; they are from very different worlds. But they both get places to study at university in Dublin, and a connection that has grown between them despite the social tangle of school lasts long into the following years. A deeply political novel, also a novel about love. It's about how difficult it is to speak to what you feel and how difficult it is to change. It's wry and seductive; perceptive and bold. It will make you cry and you will know yourself through it.

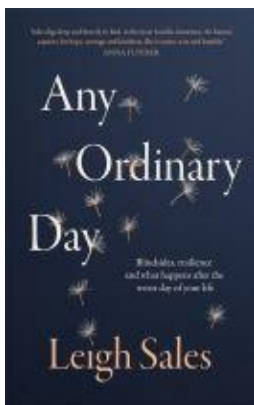
Fiction



Bruny / Heather Rose (2019)

A right-wing US president has withdrawn America from the Middle East and the UN and China is Australia's newest ally. When a bomb goes off in remote Tasmania, Astrid agrees to return home to help her brother before an upcoming election. But this is no simple task. Her brother and sister are on either side of politics; the community is full of conspiracy theories, and her father is quoting Shakespeare. Only on Bruny does the world seem sane. Until Astrid discovers how far the government is willing to go. A novel about family, loyalty and the new world order.

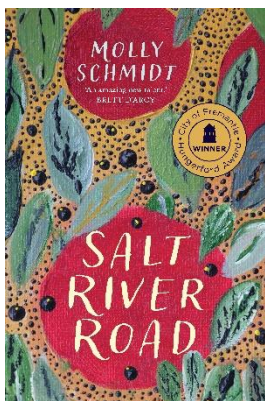
Fiction - Australian author



Any Ordinary Day / Leigh Sales (2018)

After one particular string of bad news stories – and a terrifying brush with her own mortality Leigh Sales went looking for answers about how vulnerable each of us is to a life-changing event. What are our chances of actually experiencing one? What do we fear most and why? And when the worst does happen, what comes next? Leigh talks with people who've faced the unimaginable, from terrorism to natural disaster to simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Expecting broken lives, she instead finds strength, hope, even humour.

True Story - Australian author



Salt River Road / Molly Schmidt (2023)

In the aftermath of their mother's death, the Tetley siblings' lives are falling apart. Left to fend for themselves as their family farm goes to ruins, Rose sets out to escape the grief and mess of home. When she meets Noongar Elders Patsy and Herbert, she finds herself drawn into a home where she has the chance to discover the strength of community, and to heal a wound her family has carried for a generation.

Salt River Road is a poignant exploration of healing and resilience, small-town racism and the power of human connection.

Fiction - Australian author



Patience / Victoria Scott (2021)

The story of Patience, a severely disabled young woman, and her family's decision to enter her into a pioneering but risky gene therapy trial. If you were offered the chance to be 'normal' would you take it? Do we even know what 'normal' is? The Willow family have been through a lot together. When the opportunity to put Patience into a new gene therapy trial to cure her Rett syndrome becomes available, opinions are divided, and the family is torn. The stakes are high, and they face tough decisions in the hunt for a normal life. But is normal worth it? Is Patience about to find out...?

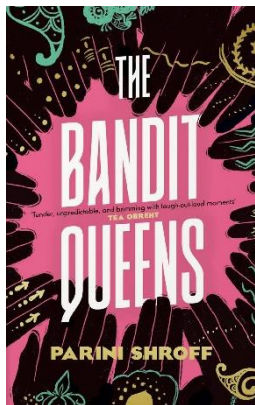
Fiction



10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World / Elif Shafak (2019)

Brains stay active for ten minutes after our heart stops beating. For Leila, each minute after her death brings a sensuous memory: the taste of spiced goat stew, sacrificed by her father to celebrate the birth of a son; the sight of bubbling vats of lemon and sugar which the women use to wax their legs; the scent of cardamom coffee that Leila shares with a handsome student in the brothel where she works. Each memory recalls the friends she made at each key moment in her life - friends who are now desperately trying to find her.

Fiction

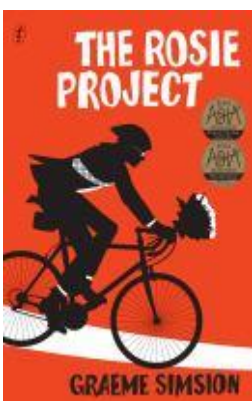


The Bandit Queens / Parini Shroff (2023)

Geeta's no-good husband disappeared five years ago. She didn't kill him, but everyone thinks she did--no matter how much she protests. But she soon discovers that being known as a "self-made" widow has some surprising perks. No one messes with her, no one threatens her, and no one tries to control (ahem, *marry*) her. It's even been good for her business; no one wants to risk getting on her bad side by *not* buying her jewellery.

Freedom must look good on Geeta, because other women in the village have started asking for her help to get rid of their own no-good husbands...but not all of them are asking nicely.

Fiction

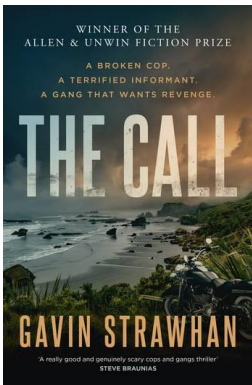


The Rosie Project / Graeme Simsion (2013)

A first-date dud, socially awkward, and overly fond of quick-dry clothes, Don has given up on love. Until a chance encounter gives him an idea. He will design a questionnaire—a scientifically researched questionnaire—to uncover the perfect partner. She will most definitely not be a barmaid, a smoker, a drinker or a late-arriver. Rosie is all these things. She is also fiery and intelligent, strangely beguiling. And looking for her biological father—a search that a DNA expert might just be able to help her with.

The Rosie Project is a romantic comedy like no other.

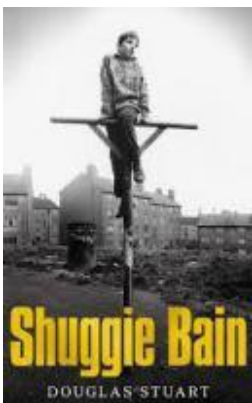
Fiction - Australian author



The Call / Gavin Strawhan (2024)

After surviving a brutal attack, Auckland cop DS Honey Chalmers has returned to her hometown to care for her mother. The remote coastal settlement of Waitutu holds complicated memories for Honey, not least the tragic suicide of her younger sister, Scarlett. And Honey's relationship with her formidable mother is fraught to say the least. Honey is hardest on herself regarding the attack that nearly killed her. She let herself get too close to a Reapers gang informant. She got sloppy. And she's pretty sure the informant, mother-of-three Kloe Kovich, paid the price. But when a couple of gang heavies turn up in Waitutu, Honey realises they are hoping she will lead them to Kloe. This means that Kloe is alive and on the run after all. When Honey catches up with her oldest friend, Marshall, her feelings are complicated. As teenagers they were inseparable, but Marshall was the last person to see Scarlett alive, and there are rumours they were sleeping together, that he broke her heart. Marshall was said to have joined the army, to have gone to Western Australia, to have been married or sent to prison - or all of the above. Honey and Marshall must work together to try and keep the hapless Kloe out of the hands of those who want her silenced.

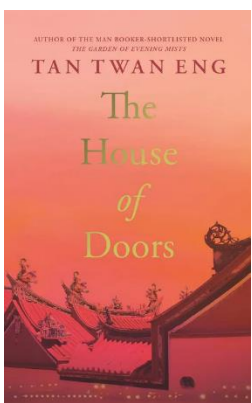
Fiction



Shuggie Bain / Douglas Stuart (2020)

Shuggie Bain is the story of a sweet and lonely boy who spends his childhood in public housing in Glasgow. His mother Agnes walks a wayward path: she is his guiding light but a burden for his brother and sister. Married to a "whoremaster" of a husband, Agnes keeps her pride by looking good but under the surface, Agnes finds solace in drink. Agnes's older children find their own ways to get away from their mother, abandoning Shuggie to look after her as she swings between alcoholic binges and sobriety. Meanwhile he is doing all he can to somehow become the normal boy he longs to be.

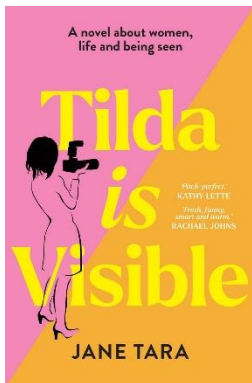
Fiction



The House of Doors / Tan Twan Eng (2023)

It is 1921 in the Straits Settlements of Penang, Robert Hamlyn is a well-to-do lawyer and his steely wife Lesley, a society hostess. Their lives are invigorated when Willie, an old friend of Robert's, comes to stay. He is beleaguered by an unhappy marriage, ill-health and business interests that have gone badly awry. He is also struggling to write. The more Lesley's friendship with Willie grows, the more clearly she sees him as he is - a man who has no choice but to mask his true self. Lesley confides secrets of her own, including how she came to know the charismatic Dr Sun Yat Sen. And more scandalous still, she reveals her connection to the case of an Englishwoman charged with murder in the Kuala Lumpur courts.

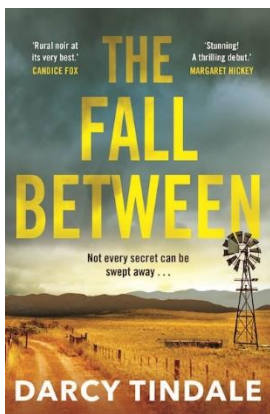
Fiction



Tilda is Visible / Jane Tara (2024)

When Tilda Finch is diagnosed with invisibility, she's not overly surprised - she's felt invisible for years. She has a good life and a successful business selling inspirational quotes on merchandise. But she's never really recovered from her divorce. Or, if she's honest, her childhood. Tilda's past has taken a toll and she's lost sight of herself. Now, with the possibility of completely disappearing, she must face the trauma of her past and rewrite the way she perceives the world, and herself.

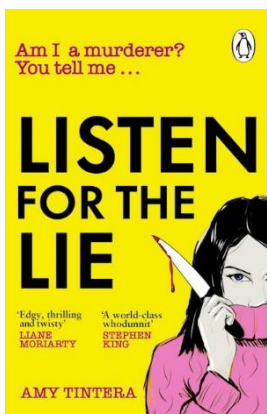
Fiction – Australian Author



The Fall Between / Darcy Tindale (2023)

Detective Rebecca Giles has just finished interviewing aging petty criminal when a disturbing report comes in, a twelve-year-old girl has vanished from her home in Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter Valley. Hours later she's a local hero, having apparently solved both cases. Yet the hangover from her celebrations has barely kicked in when the body of young jillaroo Ava Emerson is discovered in gruesome circumstances on a nearby farm. Giles is convinced the link between all three cases lies in the town's tragic history, perhaps even in her own mother's mysterious drowning thirty years ago.

Fiction – Australian author



Listen For the Lie / Amy Tintera (2024)

You probably already know my name. Lucy Chase, the woman who doesn't remember murdering her best friend. Even though they couldn't find enough evidence to charge me, I know you all think I did it. That's OK. I realise being found wandering the streets the next day covered in her blood wasn't a great look. Believe me, I'm as frustrated as you are. I'd love to know if I'm a murderer - it's the sort of thing you really should know about yourself, isn't it? And now, thanks to true-crime podcast Listen for the Lie, I finally have the chance to find out. But will I be able to live with myself if it turns out it was me? And if it wasn't, will digging into the secrets of the night I forgot make me the next target of whoever did?

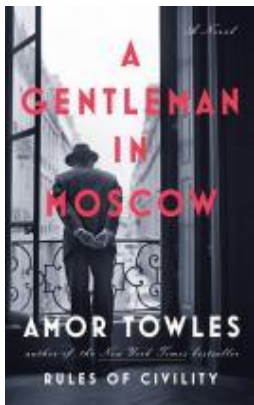
Fiction



Here Goes Nothing / Steve Toltz (2022)

Angus Mooney is in a dark place: the afterlife. His days are spent in aching embarrassment; god, religion, the supernatural – he was wrong about everything. He longs for his audacious, fiery wife, Gracie, but can only watch from the other side as she is seduced by his killer, who has stepped seamlessly into Mooney's shoes. Meanwhile, life after death isn't all it's cracked up to be. Another pandemic is sweeping the globe; Mooney's new home is filling up fast, resources are scarce, infrastructure is crumbling, and he has to share an increasingly cramped existence with a group of people still traumatised by their own deaths.

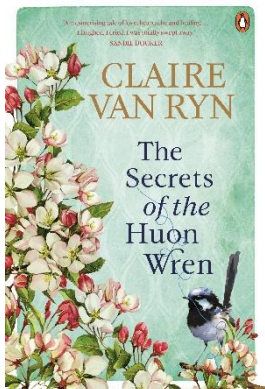
Fiction



A Gentleman in Moscow / Amor Towles (2016)

In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery. Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another.

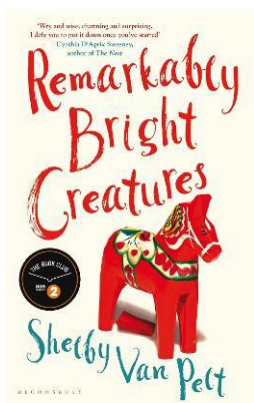
Fiction



The Secrets of the Huon Wren / Claire van Wren (2023)

Senior journalist Allira is writing a story for Folk magazine when she meets Nora, a nursing home resident with dementia. Bit by bit, Nora reveals details about her younger life. As the two women form an unlikely friendship, Allira becomes helplessly drawn into the old woman's story. When Allira opens up to Nora about her own recent tragedy, the secrets embedded in the story of a carved Huon pine wren become the key to a life-changing discovery from the past. It is a revelation that finally fills in the missing pieces of Nora's history and has the power to set them both free.

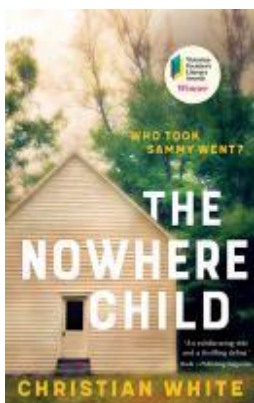
Fiction – Australian author



Remarkably Bright Creatures / Shelby Van Pelt (2022)

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.

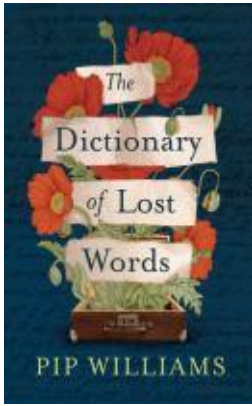
Fiction



The Nowhere Child / Christian White (2019)

On a break between teaching photography classes in Melbourne, Kim is approached by a stranger investigating the disappearance of a little girl from Kentucky 28 years earlier. He believes Kim is that girl. At first she brushes it off, but when Kim scratches the surface of her family history in Australia, questions arise that aren't easily answered. To find the truth, she must travel to Kentucky, and into a dark past. As the mystery unravels and the town's secrets are revealed, this superb novel builds towards an electrifying climax.

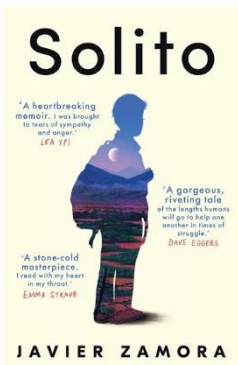
Fiction - Australian author



The Dictionary of Lost Words / Pip Williams (2020)

Esme spends her childhood with her father and a team of lexicographers who are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. Esme's place is beneath the table, unseen and unheard. One day a slip of paper containing the word 'bondmaid' flutters to the floor. Esme rescues it and begins to collect other words that are misplaced, discarded or have been neglected by the dictionary men. She realises that words relating to women's experiences often go unrecorded. Secretly, she begins to collect words for another dictionary: The Dictionary of Lost Words.

Fiction - Australian author



Solito / Javier Zamora (2023)

Javier is nine years old, can't tie his shoes, and dreams of eating orange sherbet ice cream with his parents in the United States. To make his dream come true, he must take a three-thousand-mile journey alone, from his hometown in El Salvador, crossing Guatemala, Mexico and the Sonoran Desert to reach Arizona. No papers – at least no real ones. Only a group of travelling strangers and one hired 'coyote' to lead them to safety. It's supposed to last two short weeks. It takes seven. In limbo, between life and death, Javier learns what people will do to survive – and what they will forfeit to save someone else.

Biography