BOOK CLUB SETS – *2017-18* (32 pages)

Goldfields Libraries

□ **1788: the brutal truth of the first fleet** – David Hill 392P

On May 13th 1787 eleven ships sailed from Portsmouth destined for the colony of New South Wales where a penal settlement was to be established. David Hill tells of the politics behind the decision to transport convicts, the social conditions in Britain at the time, conditions on board the vessels, and what was involved in establishing penal colonies so distant from Britain.

□ **The 19th Wife – a novel** – David Ebeshoff 514p

Jordan returns from California to Utah to visit his mother in jail. As a teenager he was expelled from his family and religious community, a secretive Mormon offshoot sect. Now his father has been found shot dead in front of his computer, and one of his many wives - Jordan's mother - is accused of the crime. Over a century earlier, Ann Eliza Young, the nineteenth wife of Brigham Young, Prophet and Leader of the Mormon Church, tells the sensational story of how her own parents were drawn into plural marriage, and how she herself battled for her freedom and escaped her powerful husband, to lead a crusade to end polygamy in the United States. Bold, shocking and gripping, The 19th Wife expertly weaves together these two narratives: a page turning literary mystery and an enthralling epic of love and faith.

□**1984** – George Orwell 326p

George Orwell's dystopian masterpiece, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is perhaps the most pervasively influential book of the twentieth century, making famous Big Brother, newspeak and Room 101. Hidden away in the Record Department of the sprawling Ministry of Truth, Winston Smith rewrites the past to suit the needs of the Party. Yet he inwardly rebels against the totalitarian world he lives in, which controls him through the all-seeing telescreens and the watchful eye of Big Brother. In his longing for truth and liberty, Smith begins a secret love affair with a fellow-worker Julia, but soon discovers the true price of freedom.

□ **The 4 percent universe** - Richard Panek. 297p

In recent years, a handful of scientists has been racing to explain a disturbing aspect of our universe: only 4 percent of it consists of the matter that makes up you, me, and every star and planet. The rest is completely unknown. Richard Panek tells the dramatic story of how scientists reached this cosmos-shattering conclusion and he narrates the quest to find the "dark" matter and an even more bizarre substance called dark energy.

□ **84 Charing Cross road** – Helene Hanff 232p

A charming record of bibliophilia, cultural difference, and imaginative sympathy. For 20 years, an outspoken New York writer and a rather more restrained London bookseller carried on an increasingly touching correspondence.

□ **All the light we cannot see** –Anthony Doerr 530p

Marie-Laure, who is blind, lives with her father who works in a museum. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great-uncle lives. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. in Germany, Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing radios, a talent that wins him a place at an academy, then a special assignment to track the resistance. Aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

□ **The almost moon** – Alice Sebald 291 p

The central character of Alice Sebold's *Almost Moon*, Helen Knightly, is emotionally cold and distant, even from her best friend. Divorced, she is physically and emotionally estranged from her daughters. That she is mentally ill is readily apparent. John Hart writes, "I have often said that family dysfunction makes for rich literary soil, ... the perfect place to cultivate secrets and misdeeds, grow them into explosive stories."

□ **An American in Oz** – Sara James 310p

No one thought Sara James, Manhattanite through and through, would move to Australia after a long and successful fast-track career reporting from around the globe. Her journey is filled with drama and adventure, both personal and professional, intentional and accidental. We follow Sara's adventures as she faces head on the challenges of everyday life in a new country with two children, one of whom has special needs. We laugh with her as she drives on the other side of the road, cheer for her when she sets up the NBC Australasian bureau from her home in the Wombat Forest. Most of all, we see a woman determined to create her own Australian memories. Warm, uplifting and inspiring.

□ **Animal farm** – George Orwell 113p

Mr Jones of Manor Farm is so lazy and drunken that one day he forgets to feed his livestock. The ensuing rebellion under the leadership of the pigs Napoleon and Wellington leads to the animals taking over the farm. Vowing to eliminate the terrible inequities of the farmyard, the renamed Animal Farm is organized to benefit all who walk on four legs. But as time passes, the ideals of the rebellion are corrupted, then forgotten. And something new and unexpected emerges...
Animal Farm - the history of a revolution that went wrong - is George Orwell's brilliant satire on the corrupting influence of power.

□ **Animal kingdom: a crime story** – (novel) Stephen Sewell 234p

Welcome to the Melbourne underworld, where tensions are building between dangerous criminals and equally dangerous police. It's the Wild West, played out on the city's streets. Novel based on the 2010 movie of the same name

□ **Anna Karenina** – Leo Tolstoy 963p

Anna Karenina seems to have everything – beauty, wealth, popularity, a husband and an adored son. But she risks losing it all when she meets the impetuous officer Count Vronsky. Although she tries to resist, Anna is gradually drawn into a passionate, all-consuming affair that scandalizes everyone around them and threatens to destroy her.

□ **The annotated Alice** - Lewis Carrol/Martin Gardner 352p

It was Martin Gardner who first decoded many of the mathematical riddles and wordplay that lie ingeniously embedded in Carroll's two classic stories. Illustrated with John Tenniel's wonderful illustrations, *The Annotated Alice* makes Carrol's masterpiece of wit and imagination accessible to the modern reader and will be Gardner's most beautiful and enduring tribute to Carroll's writings.

□ **Ape house** – Sandra Gruen 316p

Isabel Duncan, a scientist at the Great Ape Language Lab, doesn't understand people, but apes she gets—especially the bonobos Sam, Bonzi, Lola, Mbongo, Jelani, and Makena, who are capable of reason and communication through American Sign Language. Isabel feels more comfortable in their world than she's ever felt among humans—until she meets John Thigpen, a very married reporter writing a human interest feature. But when an explosion rocks the lab, John's piece turns into the story of a lifetime—and Isabel must connect with her own kind to save her family of apes from a new form of human exploitation

□ **The Argonauts** – Maggie Nelson 180p

A memoir, and work of "autotheory" offering fresh, fierce, and timely thinking about desire, identity, and the limitations and possibilities of love and language. At its center is Nelson's account of falling in love with artist Harry Dodge, who is fluidly gendered. Her journey to and through a pregnancy offers a firsthand account of the complexities and joys of (queer) family-making. Nelson's insistence on radical individual freedom and the value of caretaking becomes the rallying cry of this thoughtful, unabashed, uncompromising book

□ **Armadale** – Wilkie Collins 667 P

Can a dream foretell the future? That is the central question of Armadale. It is written with the psychological awareness and piercing character studies of the best of Collins' work and consists of chapters written in the form of letters between the characters and others written from the perception of the characters. Two cousins are named Allan Armadale as well as both of their fathers. One father gives his son a death bed letter confessing his murder of the other senior Alan Armadale. The book concludes with the theme that the sins of the fathers are not visited on the children, and the son of the murderer can turn out to be a good person.

□ **The arrival** – Shaun Tan 32p

Using images alone, without the barrier of words or language, Tan's powerful and celebrated work graphically interprets the emotions of the migrant experience. In a series of marvellously detailed monochromatic drawings reminiscent of a collection of worn photographs, a life's collection of images, Tan tells stories that emphasize the value of friendship and family.

□**Arthur and George** – Julian Barnes 505p

As boys, George, the son of a Midlands vicar, and Arthur, living in shabby genteel Edinburgh, find themselves in a vast and complex world at the heart of the British Empire. Years later—one struggling with his identity in a world hostile to his ancestry, the other creating the world's most famous detective while in love with a woman who is not his wife–their fates become inextricably connected.

□ **Atonement** – Ian McEwan 384p

Takes the reader from a manor house in England in 1935 to the retreat from Dunkirk in 1941; from the London's World War II military hospitals to a reunion of the Tallis clan in 1999. Brilliant and utterly enthralling in its depiction of childhood, love and war, England and class, the novel is at its centre a profound exploration of shame and forgiveness and the difficulty of absolution.

□ **The aunt's story** – Patrick White 303p

With the death of her mother, middle-aged Theodora Goodman contemplates the desert of her life. Freed from the trammels of convention, she leaves Australia for a European tour and becomes involved with the residents of a small French hotel. But creating other people's lives, even in love and pity, can lead to madness. Her ability to reconcile joy and sorrow is an unbearable torture to her. On the journey home, Theodora finds there is little to choose between the reality of illusion and the illusion of reality. She looks for peace, even if it is beyond the borders of insanity.

□ **Bad behaviour: a memoir of bullying and boarding school** – Rebecca Starford 253 P

It was supposed to be a place where teenagers would learn resilience, confidence and independence, where long hikes and runs in the bush would make their bodies strong and foster a connection with the natural world. Fourteen-year-old Rebecca Starford spent a year at this school in the bush. Rebecca found herself joining ranks with the powerful girls, becoming both a participant - and later a victim - of various forms of bullying and aggression. This extraordinary memoir shows how bad behaviour from childhood can be so often and so easily repeated throughout our adult lives.

□ **The battle for Lone Pine** – David W Cameron 328p

Over four days in August 1915, Australians and Turks were thrown into some of the fiercest fighting of the war, on a small plateau in Gallipoli known as Lone Pine. Thousands of lives were lost. Seven of Australia's nine Gallipoli VCs were earned during brutal hand-to-hand combat in dark tunnels and in trenches just metres apart, bombarded by terrifying volleys of grenades.David W. Cameron's absorbing history reveals the fate of those who fought on the ground there.

□ **The bean patch** – Shirley Painter 310 P

Shirley Painter is 83 years old. She shouldn't be. When she was four years old she was so badly injured she was pronounced dead and taken to the morgue. the man who so severely injured her was her father. told in the third person, this is the story of how a young girl survived growing up in a volatile household in the 1920s and 1930s. How school - and later university - became her escape route from a family filled with secrets and violence. It is also a story of how, as a mature woman and a mother herself, she came to face what had happened to her as a child. How she had to bring long-buried memories into the light in order to move on.

□**Bear is now asleep –** William Verity 327p

One June day in 2003 William Verity's three-year old daughter, India, was killed when she was hit by a falling portable goalpost. She was singing and dancing to her favourite Wiggles song, Rock-a Bye Your Bear, minutes before the accident. Far more than a simple diary of events, this moving account of a family in crisis explores many of the bedrock issues of life that challenge and confront us all. From the remarkable opening works about the random nature of death to the final embrace of an enduring love, this is a gently uplifting and inspiring story.

□**Bearbrass: imagining early Melbourne** – Robyn Annear 256p

In this much-loved book, Robyn Annear resurrects the village that was early Melbourne – from the arrival of white settlers in 1835 until the first gold rushes shook the town – and brings it to life in vivid colour. Bearbrass was one of the local names by which Melbourne was known and Annear provides a fascinating living portrait of the streetlife of this town. In a lively and engaging style, she overlays her reinvention of Bearbrass with her own impressions and experiences of the modern city,

□**The Bees: a novel** – Laline Paull 346p

Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion. But Flora is not like other bees, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw but her courage and strength are an asset. She finds her way into the Queen's inner sanctum, where she discovers mysteries about the hive that are both profound and ominous. Thrilling, suspenseful and spectacularly imaginative, *The Bees* gives us a dazzling young heroine and will change forever the way you look at the world outside.

□ **Before I go to sleep** – S.J. Watson 366p

A psychological thriller of the highest order. Christine wakes in a strange bed beside a man she does not recognise. In the bathroom she finds a photograph of him taped to the mirror, and beneath it the words 'Your husband'. Each day, Christine wakes knowing nothing of her life. Each night, her mind erases the day. But before she goes to sleep, she will recover fragments from her past, flashbacks to the accident that damaged her, and then—mercifully—she will forget.

□**Behind the scenes at the museum –** Kate Atkinson 332p

Kate Atkinson earned a Whitbread Prize in 1995 for this brilliantly funny and tragic family saga. The novel begins with Ruby Lennox's conception in London in 1951. "I exist!" she exclaims. Born while her father, George, was telling a woman in an emerald dress and a D-cup that he wasn't married, Ruby's life with her dysfunctional family is haunted by the feeling that something is missing, a knowledge just out of reach.

□**Best short stories** – Katherine Mansfield 168p

These perceptive tales of frayed emotional bonds and shattering discoveries unfold in an intensely visual style of impressionistic details. Acclaimed stories by the influential Modernist author include "Prelude," a reminiscence of her New Zealand girlhood, in addition to "The Garden Party," "How Pearl Button Was Kidnapped," "Bliss," and others.

□**Between the woods and the water** – Patrick Leigh Fermor 253p.

The journey that Patrick Leigh Fermor set out on in 1933—to cross Europe on foot with an emergency allowance of one pound a day—proved so rich in experiences that when much later he sat down to describe them, they overflowed into more than one volume. Undertaken as the storms of war gathered, and providing a background for the events that were beginning to unfold in Central Europe, Leigh Fermor's still-unfinished account of his journey has established itself as a modern classic.

□**Between us: women of letters** – Marieke Hardy, Michaela McGuire 344 P

Writing a letter can be an act of confession or celebration, while receiving one can bring joy, insight and vivid memories.Marieke Hardy and Michaela McGuire have lured some of our best and brightest to the literary afternoons of *Women of Letters* to write and read missives of all kinds. Hannah Kent exchanges letters about books, editing and synchronicity with her publisher Alex Craig. Intimate and outrageous declarations of love and friendship are shared between actor Rhys Muldoon and musician Kram. And award-winning cartoonist First Dog on the Moon expresses his affection for his editor Sophie Black through drawings (while she sticks to the written word).

□**Blood witness**– Alex Hammond 322p.

One man's search for justice and redemption plunges him into the violent world of Melbourne's underbelly.
Defence lawyer Will Harris is reluctantly drawn into a bizarre murder trial. A terminally ill man claims to have witnessed the brutal crime – in a vision.But the looming trial is more than just a media circus: it's Will's first big case since the tragic death of his fiancée. With the pressure mounting, Will's loyalties are split when his fiancée's sister is charged with drug trafficking.The strain of balancing both cases takes its toll and Will finds himself torn between following the law and seeking justice.

□**The book of lost threads** – Tess Evans 354p.

Moss has run away from Melbourne to Opportunity on the trail of a man she knows only by name. But her arrival sets in train events that disturb the long-held secrets of three of the town's inhabitants: Finn, a brilliant mathematician, who has become a recluse; Lily Pargetter, eighty-three-year-old knitter of tea cosies; and Sandy, the town buffoon, who dreams of a Great Galah. It is only as Moss, Finn, Lily and Sandy develop unlikely friendships that they find a way to lay their sorrows to rest and knit together the threads that will restore them to life.

□**The book thief** – Martin Zuzak 584p.

Liesel Meminger is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids. The child arrives having just stolen her first book–although she has not yet learned how to read–and her foster father uses it, *The Gravediggers Handbook*, to lull her to sleep when she's roused by regular nightmares about her younger brothers death. Across the ensuing years Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends. Zusak not only creates a mesmerizing and original story but also writes with poetic syntax.

□**The bookshop book** – Jen Campbell 273p

A love letter to bookshops all around the world, from the author of *Weird Things Customers Say in Bookstores*. We're not talking about rooms that are just full of books. We're talking about bookshops in barns, disused factories, converted churches, and underground car parks. Bookshops on boats, on buses, and in old run-down train stations.

□**The brain that changes itself** – Norman Doige 423p

This book outlines the increasing evidence that the brain is a highly adaptable structure that undergoes constant change throughout life; a far cry from the idea that we are simply the product of genes or environment. More than the old nature/nurture debate in a new bottle, this book is full of new science and detailed case reports of triumph over unbelievable adversity.

□ **The broken shore** – Peter Temple 345p

Joe Cashin was different once. He moved easily then; was surer and less thoughtful. But there are consequences when you've come so close to dying. For Cashin, they included a posting away from the world of Homicide to the quiet place on the coast where he grew up. Now all he has to do is play the country cop and walk the dogs. Then prominent local Charles Bourgoyne is bashed and left for dead. Everything seems to point to three boys from the nearby Aboriginal community; everyone seems to want it to. But Cashin is unconvinced. And as tragedy unfolds relentlessly into tragedy, he finds himself holding onto something that might be better let go.

□ **Brooklyn** – Colm Toibin 262p

Eilis Lacey has come of age in small-town Ireland in the years following World War Two and cannot find a proper job in the miserable Irish economy. When a priest from Brooklyn offers to sponsor Eilis in America—to live and work in a Brooklyn neighbourhood 'just like Ireland'—she realises she must go, leaving her fragile mother and sister behind. Eilis finds work in a department store and, when she least expects it, finds love. But just as she begins to consider what this means, devastating news from Ireland threatens the promise of her new life.

□**The burial** – Courtney Collins 296p

Inspired by the life of Jessie Hickman, legendary twentieth-century bushranger, *The Burial* is a work of haunting originality and power. Twenty-two-year-old Jessie has served a two-year sentence for horse rustling. As a condition of her release she is apprenticed to Fitzgerald 'Fitz' Henry, who wants a woman to allay his loneliness. One catastrophic night turns Jessie's life on its head and she must flee for her life.

□ **Burial rites** – Hannah Kent 338p

Set against Iceland's stark landscape, this is the story of Agnes, charged with the brutal murder of her former master. Sent to an isolated farm to await execution, she is at first avoided by the family who live there. Only Tóti, a priest seeks to understand her. But as Agnes's death looms, the farmer's wife and their daughters learn there is another side to the sensational story they've heard.

□**By nightfall –** Michael Cunningham 238p

Peter and Rebecca Harris are in their mid-forties, nearing the apogee of committed careers in the arts—he a dealer, she an editor. Rebecca's brother, a beguiling twenty-three-year-old with a history of drug problems, turns up, and Peter finds himself questioning his artists, their work, his career—the entire world he has so carefully constructed. A novel about the uses and meaning of beauty and the place of love in our lives.

□ **Café Scheherazade** – Arnold Zable 221p

'In Acland Street, St Kilda, there stands a cafe called Scheherazade.' Thus begins Arnold Zable's haunting meditation on displacement, and the way the effects of war linger in the minds of its survivors. In this deeply moving book we meet Avram and Masha, proprietors of the cafe, and hear the tales that they and their fellow storytellers have to offer: of Moshe stalking the streets of Shanghai and Warsaw, of Laizer imprisoned in the Soviet city of Lvov, and of Zalman marooned in Vilna and Kobe. And we learn how Avram and Masha met and fell in love and came to create their Melbourne cafe together.

□ **Cairo** – Chris Womersley 295p

Frustrated by country life and eager for adventure and excitement, eighteen-year-old Tom Button moves to the city to study. Once there, and living in a run-down apartment block called Cairo, he is befriended by an eccentric musician Max Cheever, his beautiful wife Sally, and their close-knit circle of painters and poets.

□ **The campus trilogy (Changing places, Small world, Nice work)** – David Lodge 890p

Three brilliantly comic novels revolving around the University of Rummidge and the eventful lives and loves of its role-swapping academics.

□ **Carry me down** – M.J.Hyland 313p

John Egan lives with his mother, father and grandmother in rural Ireland. *The Guinness Book of Records* is his favourite book and he wants to visit Niagara Falls with his mother. But, more than anything, he is determined to become a world-famous lie detector, almost at any cost.*Carry Me Down* is written in clean, compelling prose, and is about John's obsessive and dangerous desire to see the truth, even as his family is threatened in countless ways. In this singular tale of disturbed love every word rings true

□ **Catch-22** – Joseph Heller 519p

Explosive, subversive, wild and funny, 50 years on the novel's strength is undiminished. Reading Joseph Heller's classic satire is nothing less than a rite of passage. Set in the closing months of World War II in an American bomber squadron off the coast of Italy, *Catch-22* is the story of a bombardier named Yossarian who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he has never even met keep trying to kill him. A hilarious and tragic satire on military madness, and the tale of one man's efforts to survive it.

□**The catcher in the rye** – J.D. Sallinger 192p

Ever since it was first published in 1951, this novel has been the coming-of-age story against which all others are judged. Read and cherished by generations, the story of Holden Caulfield is truly one of America's literary treasures.

□**Catherine's gift: stories of hope from the Hospital by the River** – John Little 271p

Since 1959 Dr. Catherine Hamlin has lived and worked in Ethiopia. With her husband, Reg, she pioneered surgery for the condition called "fistula"-an injury incurred during obstructed labour, resulting in uncontrollable incontinence.

□ **Certain admissions** – Gideon Haigh 311p

Certain Admissions is Australian true crime at its best, and stranger than any crime fiction. It is real-life police procedural, courtroom drama, family saga, investigative journalism, social history, archival treasure hunt - a meditation, too, on how the past shapes the present, and the present the past.

□**The children's Bach** – Helen Garner 164p

Athena lives with a distant, domineering husband Dexter and intellectually handicapped son, absorbed in the routines of domestic life. When visitors Vicki and Elizabeth arrive, they awaken her to the possibilities of another existence. Whether Dexter is ready or not, the "modern world" he's tried so hard to shut out is about to invade, having repercussions Dexter could never have seen coming. *The Children's Bach* is compact but complex. Garner's writing is sharp and pithy.

□ **Cider with Rosie** – Laurie Lee 231p

A wonderfully vivid memoir of childhood in a remote Cotswold village, a village before electricity or cars, a timeless place on the verge of change. Growing up amongst the fields and woods and characters of the place, Laurie Lee depicts a world that is both immediate and real and belongs to a now-distant past.

□**Cloud atlas** – David Mitchell 529p

The Cloud Atlas is an enthralling story of a young soldier who came to Alaska on an extraordinary, top-secret mission…and found a world that would haunt him forever.Drifting through the night, whisper-quiet: Japanese balloon bombs. Chasing after the ghostly floating weapons, Louis embarks upon an adventure that will lead him deep into the tundra. There, on the edge of the endless wilderness, he will make a discovery and a choice that will change the course of his life

□**Cloudstreet** – Tim Winton 426p

Tim Winton's masterful family saga is both a paean to working-class Australians and an unflinching examination of the human heart's capacity for sorrow, joy, and endless gradations in between. Struggling to rebuild their lives after being touched by disaster, the Pickle family, who've inherited a big house called Cloudstreet in a suburb of Perth, take in the God-fearing Lambs as tenants. The shared experiences of the two overpopulated clans bond them to each other and to the bustling, haunted house in ways no one could have anticipated.

□ **Coal Creek** – Alex Miller 291p

Miller's exquisite depictions of the country of the Queensland highlands form the background of this simply told but deeply significant novel of friendship, love, loyalty and the tragic consequences of misunderstanding and mistrust. *Coal Creek* is a wonderfully satisfying novel with a gratifying resolution. It carries all the wisdom and emotional depth we have come to expect from Miller's richly evocative novels.

□ **Cold Comfort Farm** – Stella Gibbons 264p

A hilarious and merciless parody of rural melodramas. When sensible, sophisticated Flora Poste is orphaned at nineteen, she decides her only choice is to descend upon relatives in deepest Sussex. At the aptly named Cold Comfort Farm, she meets the doomed Starkadders: cousin Judith, heaving with remorse for unspoken wickedness; Amos, preaching fire and damnation; their sons, lustful Seth and despairing Reuben; child of nature Elfine; and crazed old Aunt Ada Doom, who has kept to her bedroom for the last twenty years. But Flora loves nothing better than to organize other people. Armed with common sense and a strong will, she resolves to take each of the family in hand.

□**Complete stories –** Dorothy Parker 447p

As this complete collection of her short stories demonstrates, Dorothy Parker's talents extended far beyond brash one-liners and clever rhymes. Her stories not only bring to life the urban milieu that was her bailiwick but lay bare the uncertainties and disappointments of ordinary people living ordinary lives.

□ **The contract** – Brett Hoffmann 474p

Wall Street star consultant Stella Sartori is very good at her job. So good, in fact, that she can't help but follow up a casual remark made during a routine company assessment. It leads her to a dusty old contract in the archives and within hours she is running for her life, taking the file and its cryptic contents with her. Jack Rogers is sent in for damage control, but when he finds Stella's notes, her realises she has stumbled onto a devastating secret. Relentlessly pursued across the country, Jack and Stella uncover a shocking trail of corruption and murder dating back forty years, with an explosive secret at its heart.

□ **Cooee** – Vivienne Kelly 310p

Isabel Weaving, is not quite who she seems. True, she's a daughter, a sister, a mother and an ex-wife. Her second husband, Max, is the love of her life but is no longer around. Gradually and unwittingly, Isabel reveals more and more about herself, her relationships and Max's disappearance.

This dark and elegant literary mystery will have you gasping at its unexpected revelations, but also doubled over at Isabel's blackly comic wit.

□**The cook** – Wayne Macauley 245p

The Cook is funny and sad, strange and satirical, and weirdly moving. Zac dreams about becoming the greatest chef the world has seen. 'Zac thinks he's on his way when he gets a job as house cook for a wealthy family—the Mistress and Master and their daughters, Melody and Jade.

□**The course of love** – Alain de Botton 221p

Alain de Botton tracks the beautifully complicated arc of a romantic partnership. In Edinburgh, Rabih and Kirsten, fall in love. They get married, they have children—but no long-term relationship is as simple as "happily ever after." *The Course of Love* is a novel that explores what happens after the birth of love, what it takes to maintain love, and what happens to our original ideals under the pressures of an average existence.

□**Crimes against humanity –** Geoffrey Robertson 759p

In a book that has been called "an epic work" by *The Times* (London), Geoffrey Robertson, one of the world's leading human rights lawyers, weaves together disparate strands of history, philosophy, international law, and politics to show how an identification of the crime against humanity, first defined at Nuremberg, has become the key that unlocks the closed door of state sovereignty, enabling the international community to bring tyrants and torturers to heel.

□ **Crooked letter, crooked letter** – Tom Franklin 274p

An atmospheric drama set in rural Mississippi. In the late 1970s, Larry Ott and Silas "32" Jones were boyhood pals. But then tragedy struck: Larry took a girl on a date to a drive-in movie, and she was never heard from again. She was never found and Larry never confessed, but all eyes rested on him as the culprit. More than twenty years have passed. Larry lives a solitary existence, never able to rise above the whispers of suspicion. He and Silas, now a policeman, have no reason to cross paths until another girl disappears and Larry is blamed again. And now the two men who once called each other friend are forced to confront the past they've buried and ignored for decades.

□**The curious incident of the dog in the night time** - Mark Haddon 271p

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. Mark Haddon's improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

□**Currawalli Street** – Christopher Morgan 297p.

A beguiling celebration of the extraordinary in ordinary people's lives, this gently moving and beautifully written novel tells the stories of the people of Currawalli Street across the generations. It's a modern classic in the making that will stay with you long after the last page is turned.Deep, rich and satisfying, *Currawalli Street* links families and neighbours, their lovers and friends, in a powerful and moving dance through time.

□ **The Da Vinci code: a novel** – Dan Brown 605p

As millions of readers around the globe have already discovered, **The Da Vinci Code** is a reading experience unlike any other. Simultaneously lightning-paced, intelligent, and intricately layered with remarkable research and detail, Dan Brown's novel is a thrilling masterpiece—from its opening pages to its stunning conclusion.

□ **Dangerous games: Australia at the 1936 Nazi Olympics** – Larry Writer 338 P

Thirty-three athletes left Australia in May 1936 to compete in the Hitler Olympics in Berlin. Dangerous Games drops us into a front row seat at the Olympic stadium to witness some of the finest sporting performances of all time - most famously the African American runner Jesse Owens, who eclipsed the best athletes the Nazis could pit against him.

□ **The daughters of Mars** – Tom Keneally 592p (with 1 Audio book : Senior's set)

Naomi and Sally Durance are daughters of a dairy farmer from the Macleay Valley. Bound together in complicity by what they consider a crime, when the Great War begins in 1914 they hope to submerge their guilt by leaving for Europe to nurse the tides of young wounded. Inspired by the journals of Australian nurses who gave their all to the Great War effort and the men they nursed. The Daughters of Mars is vast in scope yet extraordinarily intimate. A stunning tour de force to join the best First World War literature.

□ **The day of the Triffids** – John Wyndham 233p

When Bill Masen awakes blindfolded in hospital and carefully removes his bandages, he realises he is one of the few who can see; almost everyone else has been blinded by a meteor shower. Now, with civilization in chaos, the triffids – huge, venomous, plants able to 'walk', feeding on human flesh – can have their day. This stark vision of a desolate world infested by deadly, monstrous plants has lost none of its power to horrify.

□ **A dead man in Deptford** – Anthony Burgess 272p

'One of the most productive, imaginative and risk-taking of writers... It is a clever, sexually explicit, fast-moving, full blooded yarn.' *Irish Times*

A Dead Man in Deptford re-imagines the riotous life and suspicious death of Christopher Marlowe. Poet, lover and spy, Marlowe must negotiate the pressures placed upon him by theatre, Queen and country. Burgess brings this dazzling figure to life and pungently evokes Elizabethan England.

□**The deadly dinner party & other medical detective stories** 245p

The Deadly Dinner Party presents fifteen edge-of-your-seat, real-life medical detective stories written by a practicing physician. Award-winning author Jonathan Edlow, M.D., shows the doctor as detective and the epidemiologist as elite sleuth in stories that are as gripping as the best thrillers.

□ **The death of Ivan Ilyich & other stories** – Leo Tolstoy 105p

The Death of Ivan Ilyich is one of the masterpieces of Tolstoy's late fiction, an intense and moving examination of loss and the possibilities of redemption, in which Tolstoy explores the dichotomy between the artificial and the authentic life. The nine other stories in this new collection include 'Hadji Murat' which has been described by Harold Bloom as 'the best story in the world' and 'The Devil', a tale of sexual obsession based on Tolstoy's own relationship with a married peasant woman on his estate in the years before his marriage.

This collection captures the richness and immediacy of Tolstoy's language and reveals the author as a passionate moral guide, an unflinching seeker of truth, and a creator of enduring and universal art.

□**Demons** – Wayne Macauley 230p

It is the middle of winter. Seven friends travel to a remote coastal beach house for the weekend. Without phones, internet or television, they sit around the fireplace, telling stories - each exposing the foibles of humankind. But as a storm rolls in and torrential rain cuts the party off from the outside world, it soon becomes clear that some secrets are best kept hidden.

□**Deranged marriage: a memoir** – Sushi Das 285p.

An affectionate, often hilarious, memoir of growing up in London in the 1970s in an Indian household, and avoiding an arranged marriage. 'From the age of fourteen, I was aware my parents expected me to have an arranged marriage, a big Bollywood wedding. There was just one hitch: nobody asked me.' But how do you turn your back on centuries of tradition without trashing your family's honour? How do you break free of your parents' stranglehold without casting off their embrace? And how do you explain to your strict dad why there's a boy smoking in his living room and another one lurking in his garden?

□ **The diary of a nobody** – George & Weedon Grossmith 217p

Began life as a serial in *Punch* and the book which followed in 1892 has never been out of print. The Grossmith brothers not only created an immortal comic character but produced a clever satire of their society. Mr Pooter is an office clerk and upright family man in a dull 1880s suburb. His diary is a wonderful portrait of the class system and the inherent snobbishness of the suburban middle classes. It sends up contemporary crazes for Aestheticism, spiritualism and bicycling, as well as the fashion for publishing diaries by anybody and everybody.

□**The dig tree –** Sarah Murgatroyd 372p

Murgatroyd tells the story of Burke and Wills, the explorers who set out to cross Australia from coast to coast, in brilliant detail. Here, at last, is the book that brings to life Australia's most infamous story of exploration. *The Dig Tree* describes vividly the remarkable courage, the suffering and the moments of sheer lunacy, as Burke and Wills struggled to survive in a harsh land they did not understand. A book that will amaze and delight readers with its masterful story-telling.

□ **Disquiet** – Julia leigh 121p

Fleeing a violent marriage, Olivia returns to her childhood home with her two young children and a broken arm. The house is imposing, surrounded by high walls and yew trees clipped into fantastical shapes, and her mother's rules create an atmosphere of brittle control. By coincidence, another couple are expected at the house at the same time: Olivia's brother Marcus and his wife Sophie are coming back from the hospital with their newborn. But Marcus and Sophie also bring along with them a tragic secret, a secret that will push the whole family towards breaking point...

□ **Dissection** – Jacinta Halloran 233p

Anna McBride's life is starting to unravel. The mother of two boys and a dedicated GP, she is being sued for medical negligence – a case of delayed diagnosis. Deeply ashamed of her mistake, she retreats into family life, only to find that her husband seems preoccupied with a younger colleague. As the date for mediation draws closer and the lawyers' demands become ever more pressing, Anna also vaguely senses someone else's cries for attention – someone who wishes her harm.

□ **Dracula** – Bram Stoker 402p

Count Dracula's castle is a hellish world where night is day, pleasure is pain and the blood of the innocent prized above all. Young Jonathan Harker approaches the gloomy gates with no idea what he is about to face… And back in England eerie incidents are unfolding as strange puncture marks appear on a young woman's neck... But can Harker's fiancée be saved? And where is the evil Dracula?

□ **Dream of Ding village** – Yan Lianke 341p

Dream of Ding Village is Chinese novelist Yan Lianke's most important novel to date. Set in a poor village in Henan province, it is a deeply moving and beautifully written account of a blood-selling ring in contemporary China. Based on a real-life blood-selling scandal in eastern China, *Dream of Ding Village* is the result of three years of undercover work by Yan Lianke, who worked as an assistant to a well-known Beijing anthropologist in an effort to study a small village decimated by HIV/AIDS as a result of unregulated blood selling. Whole villages were wiped out with no responsibility taken or reparations paid. *Dream of Ding Village* focuses on one family, destroyed when one son rises to the top of the Party pile as he exploits the situation, while another son is infected and dies.

□ **Driving under the influence** – Jenna Martin 244p

A hilarious novel about hitting rock bottom and climbing back up again.
Chelsea has had a rough week. After a few great years of professional triumphs and personal stability, she suddenly finds herself - at the grand old age of 28 - homeless, jobless and single. Cheating on her boyfriend with her boss probably wasn't the brightest idea. With its light touch and sassy humour, Driving Under the Influence is a charming look at growing up, growing old and what fathers and daughters can learn from each other.

□ **Eat, pray, love** – Elizabeth Gilbert 335p

In this heartfelt memoir, by turns rapturous and rueful, Elizabeth Gilbert tells how she made the difficult choice to leave behind the trappings of modern American success (marriage, house in the country, career) and find, instead, what she truly wanted from life. Setting out for a year to study three different aspects of her nature amid three different cultures, Gilbert explored the art of pleasure in Italy and the art of devotion in India, and then a balance between the two on the Indonesian island of Bali.

□ **Eating Lolly** – Corrie Hosking 471p

Mumma′s childhood was warm with baking. She was a good girl. She was Mother′s Little Helper, The Wee Chef, an Apple Dumpling in a green pinny. Her time at home revolved around cooking with her mother. But people grow and change and the wider world will always intrude. Lolly becomes aware of Mumma′s secrets – her untolds, her half-tolds, her fictions and lies – and begins to struggle, not only with her place in the family, but with her sense of self within a female skin.
Eating Lolly is a richly textured novel that weaves the pleasures of cooking and the freedom of daydreams into a story of a young woman′s fierce resilience, rending vulnerability, and unexpected love.

□ **Emma** – Jane Austen 495p

Beautiful, clever, rich – and single Emma Woodhouse is perfectly content with her life and sees no need for either love or marriage. Nothing, however, delights her more than interfering in the romantic lives of others. But when she ignores the warnings of her good friend Mr Knightley and attempts to arrange a suitable match for her protegé Harriet Smith, her carefully laid plans soon unravel and have consequences that she never expected. With its imperfect but charming heroine and its witty and subtle exploration of relationships, *Emma* is often seen as Jane Austin's most flawless work.

□ **The end of the affair** – Graham Greene 191p

"This is a record of hate far more than of love," writes Maurice Bendrix in the opening passages, and it is a strange hate indeed that compels him to set down the retrospective account of his adulterous affair with Sarah Miles—a hate bred of a passion that ultimately lost out to God.
Now, a year after Sarah's death, Bendrix seeks to exorcise the persistence of passion by retracing its course from obsessive love to love-hate. At the start he believes he hates Sarah and her husband, Henry. By the end of the book, Bendrix's hatred has shifted to the God he feels has broken his life but whose existence he has at last come to recognize. Originally published in 1951, *The End of the Affair* was acclaimed by William Faulkner as "for me one of the best, most true and moving novels of my time, in anybody's language."

□ **Engleby** – Sebastian Faulks 342p

Mike Engleby is a man devoid of scruple or self-pity, he rises without trace in Thatcher's England and scorches through the blandscape of New Labour.In the course of his brief, incandescent career, he encounter many famous people — actors, writers, politicians, household names — but by far the most memorable is Engleby himself. Beneath the highly disturbing surface lies an unfolding mystery of gripping narrative power. For when one of Mike's contemporaries unaccountably disappears, the reader has to ask: is even the shameless Engleby capable of telling the whole truth?

□ **Evereywhere I look** – Helen Garner 227p

Spanning fifteen years of work, *Everywhere I Look* is a book full of unexpected moments, sudden shafts of light, piercing intuition, flashes of anger and incidental humour. It takes us from backstage at the ballet to the trial of a woman for the murder of her newborn baby. It moves effortlessly from the significance of moving house to the pleasure of re-reading *Pride and Prejudice.Everywhere I Look* includes Garner's famous and controversial essay on the insults of age, her deeply moving tribute to her mother and extracts from her diaries, which have been part of her working life for as long as she has been a writer. *Everywhere I Look* glows with insight. It is filled with the wisdom of life.

□**Father Bob the larrakin priest –** Bob McGuire 347p

For 39 years, Father Bob was parish priest of Sts Peter and Paul church in South Melbourne, until his boss forced him to retire. From this base, and through his foundation, he worked, hands on, with the homeless, sick, criminal and addicted. He has had successes and failures. In his own words, Father Bob sees his work as a 'life-long attempt to empower teens, twenty-somethings and even children to be their unique selves … unique contributors in recreating the world and the cosmos'.

□**The fault in our stars –** John Green 318p

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, sixteen year-old Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

□**The feel-good hit of the year: a memoir –** Liam Pieper 253p

Liam Pieper was raised by his bohemian parents to believe in freedom and creativity, and that there's nothing wrong with smoking a little marijuana to make life more interesting. A fast learner, Liam combined hippie self - actualisation with Gen-Y entrepreneurialism. By his early teens he had a fledgling drug habit, and a thriving business selling pot around the suburbs of Melbourne from the back of his pushbike. Liam had to consider: had it been a mistake to adopt the practices of a counterculture without any of its ethics?

□**The fictional woman –** Tara Moss 328p

In her first work of non-fiction,TM blends memoir and social analysis to examine the common fictions about women. She traces key moments in her life—from small-town tomboy in Canada, to international fashion model in the 90s, to bestselling author taking a polygraph test in 2002 to prove she writes her own work—and weaves her own experiences into a broader look at everyday sexism and issues surrounding the underrepresentation of women, modern motherhood, body image, and the portrayal of women in politics, entertainment, advertising, and the media.

□**The fighter –** Arnold Zable 200p

Henry Nissen was a champion boxer, the boy from Amess Street in working-class Carlton who fought his way up to beat some of the world's best in the 1970s. Now, he works on the Melbourne docks, loading and unloading, taking shifts as they come up. But his real work is on the streets. He's in and out of police stations and courts giving character statements and providing support, working to give the disaffected another chance. And all the while, in the background is the memory of another fighter, his mother—and her devastating decline into madness.

□**Flashman -** George Macdonald Fraser 299p

Fraser revives Flashman, a caddish bully from *Tom Brown's Schooldays* by Thomas Hughes, and relates Flashman's adventures after he is expelled in drunken disgrace from Rugby school in the late 1830s. Flashy enlists in the Eleventh Light Dragoons and is promptly sent to India and Afghanistan, where despite his consistently cowardly behavior he always manages to come out on top. Flashman is an incorrigible anti-hero for the ages.

□ **Flaubert's parrot** – Julian Barnes 190p

A classic work by a great British author. Geoffrey Braithwaite is a retired doctor haunted by an obsession with the great French literary genius, Gustave Flaubert. As Geoffrey investigates the mystery of the stuffed parrot Flaubert borrowed from the Museum of Rouen to help research one of his novels, we learn an enormous amount about the writer's work, family, lovers, thought processes, health and obsessions. But we also gradually come to learn some important and shocking details about Geoffrey and his own life.

□ **Frankenstein** – Mary Shelley 279p

What you create can destroy you. One freezing morning, a lone man wandering across the artic ice caps is rescued from starvation by a ship's captain. Victor Frankenstein's story is one of ambition, murder and revenge. As a young scientist he pushed moral boundaries in order to cross the final scientific frontier and create life. But his creation is a monster stitched together from grave-robbed body parts who has no place in the world, and his life can only lead to tragedy. Written when she was only nineteen, Shelley's gothic tale is one of the greatest horror stories ever written.

□ **Freedom** – Jonathan Franzen 562p

An epic of contemporary love and marriage, *Freedom* comically and tragically captures the temptations and burdens of liberty: the thrills of teenage lust, the shaken compromises of middle age, the wages of suburban sprawl, the heavy weight of empire. In charting the mistakes and joys of *Freedom*'s characters as they struggle to learn how to live in an ever more confusing world, Franzen has produced an indelible and deeply moving portrait of our time.

□ **The gate of angels** – Penelope Fitzgerald 218p

In 1912, rational Fred Fairly, one of Cambridge's best and brightest, crashes his bike and wakes up in bed with a stranger — fellow casualty Daisy Saunders, a charming, pretty, generous working-class nurse. So begins a series of complications — not only of the heart but also of the head — as Fred and Daisy take up each other's education and turn each other's philosophies upside down.

□ **Gigi, (and the cat)** – Colette 157p

Read this for the wonderful evocation of Paris in the gay 1890s, and realize that it has little to do with the musical – this is about a time, a place and a way of life that is no more: the Belle Epoque and the demimonde of Paris.

□**Gilgamesh –** Joan London 256p

Joan London's Gilgamesh is not a reworking of this epic but a quest for its modern shadows. With its sleek storyline, its carefully honed sentences, its heroic women and shadowy men, its spanning of generations and continents, this story uniquely recounts the struggles and journeys of two generations of women who, against all odds, follow love to distant places.

□ **The girl who played with fire** – Stieg Larsson 569p

Book Two of the best-selling Millenium trilogy. The highly intelligent computer hacker Lisbeth Salander is a confrontational young woman who sometimes alienates those around her. She has begun a relationship with a gauche young lover. But after a grim revenge run-in with a man who has abused her, she becomes a suspect in three murders. Blomqvist is determined to help her – whether she wants his help or not.

□ **The girl with the dragon tattoo** – Stieg Larsson 532p

The first book in the best-selling Millenium trilogy.

□ **The giver** – Lois Lowry 224p

It is the future. There is no war, no hunger, no pain. No one in the community wants for anything. Everything needed is provided. And at twelve years old, each member of the community has their profession carefully chosen for them by the Committee of Elders. Twelve-year old Jonas has never thought there was anything wrong with his world. But from the moment he is selected as the Receiver of Memory, Jonas discovers that their community is not as perfect as it seems. It is only with the help of the Giver, that Jonas can find what has been lost. And it is only through his personal courage that Jonas finds the strength to do what is right…

□ **Go set a watchman** – Harper Lee 278p

Written in the mid-1950s, *Go Set a Watchman* imparts a fuller, richer understanding and appreciation of Harper Lee. Here is an unforgettable novel of wisdom, humanity, passion, humour and effortless precision – a profoundly affecting work of art that is both wonderfully evocative of another era and relevant to our own times. It not only confirms the enduring brilliance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but also serves as its essential companion, adding depth, context and new meaning to a classic.

□ **A god in ruins** – Kate Atkinson 552p

This gripping, often deliriously funny yet emotionally devastating book looks at war – that great fall of Man from grace – and the effect it has, not only on those who live through it, but on the lives of the subsequent generations. It is also about the infinite magic of fiction.Those who loved the bestselling *Life After Life* will recognise Teddy as Ursula Todd's adored younger brother – but for those who have not read it, *A God in Ruins* stands fully on its own. Few will dispute that it proves once again that Kate Atkinson is one of the most exceptional novelists of our age.

□ **Golden boys** – Sonya Hartnett 238p

When the picture-perfect Jenson's move into her quiet neighbourhood, Freya Kiley is bothered. There's something strange about them, they seem impeccable, a world away from her large and quarrelsome family. Somehow these new neighbours effortlessly start to take up so much space in their lives. The Jensons are like a family from a magazine, and Rex the hero – successful, attentive, attractive, always there to lend a hand.But Colt finds his father's presence impossible. He's unbearable and suffocating, spending money not merely to make his sons envied, but to make them *enticing*.

□ **The good women of china** – Xue Xinran 256p

As an employee for the state radio system Xinran, had long wanted to help improve the lives of Chinese women. But when she was given clearance to host a radio call-in show, she barely anticipated the enthusiasm it would quickly generate. Operating within the constraints imposed by government censors, "Words on the Night Breeze" sparked a tremendous outpouring, and the hours of tape on her answering machines were soon filled every night. Whether angry or muted, posing questions or simply relating experiences, these anonymous women bore witness to decades of civil strife, and of halting attempts at self-understanding in a painfully restrictive society.

□ **Goodbye to all that** – Robert Graves 281p

In 1929 Robert Graves went to live abroad permanently, vowing 'never to make England my home again'. This is his superb account of his life up until that 'bitter leave-taking': from his childhood and desperately unhappy school days at Charterhouse, to his time serving as a young officer in the First World War that was to haunt him throughout his life. It also contains memorable encounters with fellow writers and poets, including Siegfried Sassoon and Thomas Hardy, and covers his increasingly unhappy marriage to Nancy Nicholson. "Goodbye to All That"is a classic war document, and also has immense value as one of the most candid self-portraits of an artist ever written.

□ **The great escape** – Paul Brickhill 264p

They were American and British air force officers in a German prison camp. With only their bare hands and the crudest of homemade tools, they sank shafts, forged passports, faked weapons, and tailored German uniforms and civilian clothes. They developed a fantastic security system to protect themselves from German surveillance. It was a split-second operation as delicate and as deadly as a time bomb. It demanded the concentrated devotion and vigilance of more than six hundred men—every one of them, every minute, every hour, every day and night for more than a year.

□ **Great expectations** – Charles Dickens 560p

Considered by many to be Dickens's greatest work, this is a timeless story where vindictiveness and guilt clash with love and gratitude. Enriched by a cast of unforgettable characters, from the orphan Pip to the convict Magwitch and the bitter Miss Havisham.

□ **Grief is the thing with feathers** – Max Porter 114p

In a London flat, two young boys face the unbearable sadness of their mother's sudden death. Their father, a Ted Hughes scholar and scruffy romantic, imagines a future of well-meaning visitors and emptiness. In this moment of despair they are visited by Crow - antagonist, trickster, healer, babysitter. This sentimental bird is drawn to the grieving family and threatens to stay until they no longer need him. As weeks turn to months and the pain of loss gives way to memories, the little unit of three starts to heal

□ **The guest cat** – Takashi Hiriade 140p

A couple in their thirties live in a small rented cottage in a quiet part of Tokyo. One day a cat invites itself into their small kitchen. She is a beautiful creature. She leaves, but the next day comes again, and then again and again. New, small joys accompany the cat; the days have more light and colour. Life suddenly seems to have more promise for the husband and wife; they go walking together, talk and share stories of the cat and its little ways, play in the nearby Garden. But then something happens that will change everything.

□ **Half of a yellow sun** – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie 433p

In 1960s Nigeria, a country blighted by civil war, three lives intersect. Ugwu, a boy from a poor village, works as a houseboy for a university professor. Olanna, a young woman, has abandoned her life of privilege in Lagos to live with her charismatic new lover, the professor. And Richard, a shy English writer, is in thrall to Olanna's enigmatic twin sister. As the horrific Biafran War engulfs them, they are thrown together and pulled apart in ways they had never imagined. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's masterpiece, winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction, is a novel about Africa in a wider sense: about the end of colonialism, ethnic allegiances, class and race -- and about the ways in which love can complicate all of these things.

□ **The happiest refugee** – Anh Do 232p

Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. But nothing – not murderous pirates, nor the imminent threat of death by hunger, disease or dehydration as they drifted for days – could quench their desire to make a better life in a country where freedom existed.

The Happiest Refugee tells the incredible, uplifting and inspiring life story of one of Australia's favourite comedians. Tragedy, humour, heartache and unswerving determination – a big life with big dreams.

□ **The happiness show: a novel** – Catherine Deveny 288p

At thirty-eight, Lizzie Quealy thinks she has things sorted: a happy relationship, a couple of gorgeous kids, a steadfast best friend and a career she loves. But when Lizzie bumps into Tom, an old flame from her globe-trotting twenties, her life begins to unravel.

□**The hare with amber eyes –** Edmund De Waal 354p

Edmund de Waal was entranced when he first encountered the collection of tiny Japanese wood and ivory carvings in his great-uncle Iggie's Tokyo apartment. When he later inherited the netsuke, they unlocked a far more dramatic story than he could ever have imagined. From a burgeoning empire in Odessa to fin de siècle Paris, from occupied Vienna to post-war Tokyo, de Waal traces the netsuke's journey through generations of his remarkable family against the backdrop of a tumultuous century.

□**The harp in the south** – Ruth Park 255p

Hugh and Margaret Darcy are raising their family in Sydney amid the brothels, grog shops and run-down boarding houses of Surry Hills, where money is scarce and life is not easy. Filled with beautifully drawn characters that will make you laugh as much as cry, this Australian classic will take you straight back to the colourful slums of Sydney with convincing depth, careful detail and great heart.

□**A heartbreaking work of staggering genius** – Dave Eggers 375p

'Heartbreaking? Certainly. Staggering? Yes, I'd say so. And if genius is capturing the universal in a fresh and memorable way, call it that too' Anthony Quinn, Sunday Times. 'A virtuosic piece of writing, a big, daring, manic-depressive stew of a book that noisily announces the debut of a talented yes, staggeringly talented new writer' Michiko Kakutani, New York Times A hilarious book . . . Washington Post

□ **Hello beautiful!** – Hannie Rayson 255p

I realise that, despite all the references to my longing to be a writer, two things are apparent. The first is that I don't actually do much writing; the second is that my teenage reflections display absolutely no talent for it. My Diary is prima facie evidence of self-delusion on a grand scale.

Hannie Rayson-writer, mother, daughter, sister, wife, romantic, adventuress, parking-spot optimist-has spent a lifetime giving voice to others in the many roles she has written for stage and television.

In her new book, she shines the spotlight on herself

□ **The history of Tom Jones; (and the female husband)** – Henry Fielding 877p

Tom Jones, born a foundling, grown into a gallant and irresistible hero, romps through the English countryside getting himself into all kinds of trouble through his good nature and eye for the ladies. Betrayed by jealous relatives, Tom is exiled from home and must undergo a variety of trials and adventures in his quest to be reunited with his one true love and redeem himself in the eyes of society. One of the cleverest and funniest novels ever written, *Tom Jones* is Henry Fielding's greatest achievement.

□**Holy cow: an Indian adventure** – Sara Macdonald 319p

Holy Cow is Sara Macdonald's often hilarious chronicle of her adventures in a land of chaos and contradiction, of encounters with Hinduism, Islam and Jainism, Sufis, Sikhs, Parsis and Christians and a kaleidoscope of yogis, swamis and Bollywood stars. From spiritual retreats and crumbling nirvanas to war zones and New Delhi nightclubs, it is a journey that only a woman on a mission to save her soul, her love life—and her sanity—can survive.

□**Homer and Langley** – E.L.Doctorow 224p

Homer and Langley Collyer are brothers—the one blind and deeply intuitive, the other damaged into madness, or perhaps greatness, by mustard gas in the Great War. They live as recluses in their once grand Fifth Avenue mansion, scavenging the city streets for things they think they can use, hoarding the daily newspapers. Their housebound lives are fraught with odyssean peril as they struggle to survive and create meaning for themselves.

□**Horrible man- sinister secrets and truths untold: The Portland hair salon murders**– Leonie Wallace 273p.

It is one of Australia's worst unsolved crimes. On a Friday afternoon as the wind down to the weekend begins, two women are held hostage in a hairdressing salon. They scream and fight for their lives, but they face a killer's frenzied rage. Two unlikely victims and an unlikely crime scene at an unlikely time of day. No motive, no weapon found, no known offender; but, someone, somewhere, knows the truth. It is a long time to keep such a shocking secret – it has now been more than 20 years.

□ **The house of mirth** – Edith Wharton 351p

A searing, shocking tale of women as consumer items in a man's world, *The House of Mirth* sees Lily Bart, beautiful and charming, living among the wealthy families of New York but reluctant to finally commit herself to a husband. In her search for freedom and the happiness she feels she deserves, Lily is ultimately ruined by scandal. Edith Wharton's shattering novel created controversy on its publication in 1905 with its scathing portrayal of the world's wealthy and the prison that marriage can become

□**The house of spirits** – Isabel Allende 491p

Spanning four generations, Isabel Allende's family saga is populated by an often eccentric cast of characters. Together, men and women, spirits, the forces of nature and of history, converge in a brilliantly realised novel.

□ **The household guide to dying** – Debra Adelaide 384p

When Delia Bennet-author and domestic advice columnist-is diagnosed with cancer, she knows it's time to get her house in order. After all, she's got to secure the future for her husband, their two daughters and their five beloved chickens. But as she writes lists and makes plans, questions both large and small creep in. Should she divulge her best culinary secrets? Read her favourite novels one last time? Plan her daughters' far-off weddings? Researching and writing her final Household Guide, Delia is forced to confront the pieces of herself she left behind. She learns what matters is not the past but the present-that the art of dying is all about truly living.

□ **I Capture the castle** – Dodie Smith 407p (on order)

'I write this sitting in the kitchen sink' is the first line of this timeless, witty and enchanting novel about growing up. Cassandra Mortmain lives with her bohemian and impoverished family in a crumbling castle in the middle of nowhere. Her journal records her life with her beautiful, bored sister, Rose, her fadingly glamorous stepmother, Topaz, her little brother Thomas and her eccentric novelist father who suffers from a financially crippling writer's block. However, all their lives are turned upside down when the American heirs to the castle arrive and Cassandra finds herself falling in love for the first time...

□ **I knew you'd have brown eyes** – Mary Tennant 208p

A conservative Catholic family in Queensland in 1974 is no place to be a pregnant teenager. After putting her baby son up for adoption, Mary tries to return to her old life and her studies to be a nurse but finds that she cannot escape thoughts of her son or feelings of guilt. The situation is made worse because her mother and family completely ignore what has happened. After marrying and having two daughters, Mary feels incomplete and restless. Spanning forty years this is the story of a young girl coming to terms with her guilt and grief, and learning that breaking the silence brings empowerment.

□ **If on a winter's night a traveller** – Italo Calvino 260p

If on a Winter's Night a Traveller turns out to be not one novel but ten, each with a different plot, style, ambience, and author, and each interrupted at a moment of suspense. Together they form a labyrinth of literatures, known and unknown, alive and extinct, through which two readers, a male and a female, pursue both the story lines that intrigue them and one another.

□ **In cold blood** – Truman Capote 335p

Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* is both a masterpiece of journalism and a powerful crime thriller. Inspired by a 300-word article in The New York Times, Capote spent six years exploring and writing the story of Kansas farmer Herb Clutter, his family and the two young killers who brutally murdered them. *In Cold Blood* created a genre of novelistic non-fiction and made Capote's name with its unflinching portrayal of a comprehensible and thoroughly human evil.

□ **In her blood** – Annie Hauxwell 260p

It's not that easy to kick the money habit. After the world meltdown forces London's bankers to go cold turkey, people look elsewhere for a quick quid: the old fashioned East End. So when investigator Catherine Berlin gets an anonymous tip-off about a local loan shark, the case seems straightforward – until her informant is found floating in the Limehouse Basin. Now Berlin has seven days to find out who killed her informant, why the police are hounding her and, most urgently of all, where to find a new – and legal – supply of the drug she can't survive without.

□ **In Patagonia** – Bruce Chatwin 288p

Bruce Chatwin's exquisite account of his journey through Patagonia teems with evocative descriptions, remarkable bits of history, and unforgettable anecdotes. Fuelled by an unmistakable lust for life and adventure and a singular gift for storytelling, Chatwin treks through 'the uttermost part of the earth' – that stretch of land at the southern tip of South America, where bandits were once made welcome – in search of almost forgotten legends, the descendants of Welsh immigrants, and the log cabin built by Butch Cassidy. An instant classic upon publication in 1977, *In Patagonia* is a masterpiece that has cast a long shadow upon the literary world.

□ **Independent people** – Halldor Laxness 544p (on order)

Icelandic Nobel Prize-winner, by the 'Tolstoy of the North'. Writer Annie Proulx rates this as one of her favourite books; others have called it one of the best books of the 20th century.

First published in 1946, this humane epic novel is set in rural Iceland in the early twentieth century. Bjartus is a sheep farmer determined to eke a living from a blighted patch of land. Nothing, not merciless weather, nor his family will come between him and his goal of financial independence. Only Asta Solillja, the child he brings up as his daughter, can pierce his stubborn heart. As she grows up, keen to make her own way in the world, Bjartus' obstinacy threatens to estrange them forever.

□ **Inferno** – Dante Alighieri 208p

Describing Dante's descent into Hell midway through his life with Virgil as a guide, Inferno depicts a cruel underworld in which desperate figures are condemned to eternal damnation for committing one or more of seven deadly sins. As he descends through nine concentric circles of increasingly agonising torture, Dante encounters doomed souls including the pagan Aeneas, the liar Odysseus, the suicide Cleopatra, and his own political enemies, damned for their deceit. Led by leering demons, the poet must ultimately journey with Virgil to the deepest level of all. For it is only by encountering Satan, in the heart of Hell, that he can truly understand the tragedy of sin.

□**Infidel** - Hirsi Ali 353p

Raised in a strict Muslim family, Hirsi Ali survived civil war, female circumcision, brutal beatings, an adolescence as a devout believer, the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, and life in four countries under dictatorships. She escaped from a forced marriage and sought asylum in the Netherlands, where she fought for the rights of Muslim women and the reform of Islam, earning her the enmity of reactionary Islamists and craven politicians.

□ **Infiltration: the true story of the man who cracked the Mafia** – Colin McLaren 291p

A blistering tale of the only undercover cop to infiltrate the Griffith Mafia. For two years police detective McLaren disappears off the face of the earth, surfacing in Griffith as a dodgy art dealer with a pretty girlfriend, and talked his way into the Mafia. This is the world of listening devices, wire taps and of trying to stay sane while doing deals to buy pure cocaine and tons of cannabis. All this while, the Mafiosi know they have a snitch and are leaving no stone unturned in their search for the traitor…Infiltration tells the story of two of the bloodiest decades in organised crime, when the ethos was to shoot first and ask questions later.

□ **The interpretation of murder** – Jed Rubenfeld 409p

In the summer of 1909, Sigmund Freud arrived by steamship in New York Harbor for a short visit to America. Though he would live another thirty years, he would never return to this country. Little is known about the week he spent in Manhattan, and Freud's biographers have long speculated as to why, in his later years, he referred to Americans as 'savages' and 'criminals'. *The Interpretation of Murder* weaves the facts of Freud's visit into a riveting, atmospheric story of corruption and murder set all over turn-of-the-century New York.

□**An iron rose –** Peter Temple 269p

When Mac Faraday's best friend is found hanging, the assumption is suicide. But Mac is far from convinced, and he's a man who knows not to accept things at face value. Mac is living the quiet life of a country blacksmith but carries a burden of fear and vigilance. He must turn to long-forgotten resources to hang on to everything he holds dear, including his own life.

□**Is it just me? (confessions of an over-sharer) –** Chrissie Swan 203p

From weight to wee, children to crap dates, nothing is off limits for Chrissie Swan, self-confessed 'over-sharer'. Celebrity, friendship, love, being a working mum, 'having it all' and the general chaos of life – *Is It Just Me?* is Chrissie at her hilarious, candid and fearless best. 'Chrissie Swan writes what we're all thinking. Her honesty and humour are a gift. And a relief!' – Mia Freedman

□**Jasper Jones -** Craig Silvey 299p

Charlie Bucktin, a bookish thirteen year old, is startled one summer night by an urgent knock on his bedroom window. Jasper Jones has come to ask for Charlie's help. Jasper takes him to his secret glade, where Charlie witnesses Jasper's horrible discovery. With a secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself in fear and suspicion. In the simmering summer where everything changes, Charlie learns why the truth of things is so hard to know, and even harder to hold in his heart.

□**The Jerilderie letter** – Ned Kelly 82p

Outlaw, murderer, self-proclaimed victim, Ned Kelly is an Australian icon. But who was he? Kelly's extraordinary achievement is to have provided his own answer to that question. *The Jerilderie Letter* is his remarkable manifesto and a startling record of his voice.

Kelly delivered his letter, which Joe Byrne had diligently written out, on Monday 10 February 1879, immediately after his gang had held up the Bank of New South Wales in Jerilderie. He gives an impassioned defence of his actions, condemns those who have wronged him, and sends a chilling warning to those who may yet defy him.

□ **Journey to stone country** – Alex Miller 364 P

Betrayed by her husband, Annabelle Beck retreats from Melbourne to her old family home in tropical North Queensland where she meets Bo Rennie, one of the Jangga tribe. Intrigued by Bo's claim that he holds the key to her future, Annabelle sets out with him on a path of recovery that leads back to her childhood and into the Jangga's ancient heartland, where their grandparents' lives begin to yield secrets that will challenge the possibility of their happiness together.

□ **King Solomon's mines** – H. Rider Haggard 260p

Three Englishmen trek to the remote African interior in search of a lost friend – and reach, at the end of a perilous journey, an unknown land cut off from the world, where terrible dangers threaten anyone who ventures near the spectacular diamond mines of King Solomon. A classic British 'ripping yarn'.

□ **Labyrinth**– Kate Mosse 531p

July 1209: in Carcassonne a 17-year-old girl is given a mysterious book by her father which he claims contains the secret of the true Grail. Although Alais cannot understand the strange words and symbols hidden within, she knows that her destiny lies in keeping the secret of the labyrinth safe …July 2005: Alice Tanner discovers two skeletons in a forgotten cave in the French Pyrenees. Puzzled by the labyrinth symbol carved into the rock, she realises she's disturbed something that was meant to remain hidden. Somehow, a link to a horrific past - her past - has been revealed.

□ **Lady Chatterley's lover** – D.H. Lawrence 314p

D. H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* scandalised the world when it was first published in paperback, and helped put Penguin Books on trial. The powerful depiction of the sexual liaison of Constance Chatterley with the gamekeeper Mellors, while her invalid husband quietly seethes, brilliantly captures the perennial struggle between the classes and the sexes.

□ **The lady in the van** – Alan Bennett 100p

In 1974, the homeless Miss Shepherd moved her broken down van into Alan Bennett's garden. Deeply eccentric and stubborn to her bones, Miss Shepherd was not an easy tenant. And Bennett, despite inviting her in the first place, was a reluctant landlord. And yet she lived there for fifteen years. This account of those years was first published in 1989 in the London Review of Books.

□ **The lake house** – Kate Morton 595p

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

□**The lavender keeper** – Fiona McIntosh 483p

Lavender farmer Luc Bonet is raised by a wealthy Jewish family in the foothills of the French Alps. When the Second World War breaks out he joins the French Resistance, leaving behind his family's fortune, their home overrun by soldiers, their lavender fields in disarray. Lisette Forestier is on a mission of her own: to work her way into the heart of a senior German officer – and to bring down the Reich in any way she can. What Luc and Lisette hadn't counted on was meeting each other.

□ **Leap** – Myfanwy Jones 328 P

Joe works at nothing jobs and, in his spare time, trains his body and mind to conquer the hostile environment that took his love and smashed up his future. So when a breathless girl turns up on the doorstep, why does he let her in? Isn't he done with love and hope? On the other side of the city, graphic designer Elise is watching her marriage bleed out. She retreats to the only place that holds any meaning for her-the tiger enclosure at the zoo-where, for reasons she barely understands, she starts to sketch the beautiful killers.

□ **The Leopard** – Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa 230p

Lampedusa's masterpiece, one of the finest works of 20th-century fiction, is set amongst an aristocratic family facing social and political changes in the wake of Garibaldi's invasion of Sicily in 1860. At the head of the family is the prince, Don Fabrizio. Proud and stubborn, he is accustomed to knowing his own place in the world and expects his household to run accordingly. He is aware of the changes which are rapidly making men historically obsolete but he remains attached to the old ways.

□ **The life & opinions of Tristram Shandy, gentleman** – Laurence Sterne 735p

Laurence Sterne's great masterpiece of bawdy humour and rich satire defies any attempt to categorize it. Part novel, part digression, its gloriously disordered narrative interweaves the birth and life of the unfortunate 'hero' Tristram Shandy, the eccentric philosophy of his father Walter, the amours and military obsessions of Uncle Toby, and a host of others including Dr Slop, Corporal Trim and the parson Yorick. A joyful celebration of the endless possibilities of the art of fiction.

□ **Lilia's secret** – Erina Reddan 334p

Australian Maddy Maquire has fallen in love with a Mexican. She thinks he's going to save her from her despair – until he wants her to have their baby. On the other side of the world, Bostonian Bill Bixton's got it all – money, power, friends in high places. Maddy and Bill's fates converge deep in the heart of Mexico, in search of the truth about a woman who has irrevocably changed both their destinies. But when they leave behind their lives of ordered logic for the sultry, closed town of Aaguasecas, they find that ghostly shadows and suspicious locals make the truth hard to uncover.

□ **Lion : a long way home** – Saroo Brierley 261p

When Saroo Brierley used Google Earth to find his long-lost home town half a world away, he made global headlines. Saroo had become lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a couple in Australia.Despite being happy in his new family, Saroo always wondered about his origins. He spent hours staring at the map of India on his bedroom wall. When he was a young man the advent of Google Earth led him to pore over satellite images of the country for landmarks he recognised. And one day, after years of searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for.

□ **A little life** –Hanya Yanagihara 720p

A Little Life follows four college classmates—broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition—as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara's stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves.

□**The little stranger** – Sarah Waters 501p

One post-war summer in rural Warwickshire, Dr. Faraday is called to a patient at lonely Hundreds Hall. Home to the Ayres family for over two centuries, the Georgian house, once impressive and handsome, is now in decline. Its owners- mother, son, and daughter- are struggling to keep pace with a changing society, as well as with conflicts of their own. But are the Ayres' haunted by something more sinister than a dying way of life.

□ **Lola Bensky** – Lily Brett 267p

Lola Bensky is a nineteen-year-old rock journalist who irons her hair straight and asks a lot of questions. A high-school dropout, she's not sure how she got the job – but she's been sent by her Australian newspaper right to the heart of the London music scene at the most exciting time in music history: 1967. As Lola moves on through marriage, motherhood, psychoanalysis and a close relationship with an unexpected pair of detectives, she discovers the question of what it means to be human is the hardest one for anyone – including herself – to answer.

□ **Lolita** – Vladimir Nabokov 361p

Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* is a dark and daring story of obsessive love and transgression. Humbert Humbert's lust for his pubescent step-daughter, Lolita, shocked readers when it was first published in the 1950s; yet the novel was also celebrated for its beautifully lyrical writing. Almost fifty years after its first publication, *Lolita* remains a powerful tale of perversion and love gone wrong.

□ **The longing** – Candice Bruce 359p

In the 1840s Ellis MacRorie is shipped to Victoria from her Scottish homeland by her bankrupt father. Her Aboriginal servant Louisa, has lost her tribe in a bloody act of violence. 'That my country, belong to me. This not my country,' says Louisa. Ellis feels the ache in the words, the longing. When the American Romantic landscape painter, sketcher and collector Sanford P. Hart comes to stay at Strathcarron, the two women are transformed forever . One hundred and fifty years later, ambitious assistant curator Cornelia, researching an exhibition on S. P. Hart, makes a remarkable discovery that has the potential to rewrite history.

□ **The lost mother** – Anne Summers 354p

After her mother's death in 2005, the author inherits a portrait of her mother as a child. She finds herself drawn into the story of how the portrait was painted, and soon learns the artist painted another portrait of her mother, this time as the Madonna. In a gripping narrative that is part art history, part detective story and part meditation on the relations between mothers and daughters, Anne's search for the Madonna painting, its forgotten artist Constance Stokes and the mysterious Russian émigré collector who bought both paintings takes her down unexpected paths. Along the way Anne must face the truth of the relationship she had with her mother…

□ **Love in a cold climate** – Nancy Mitford 252p

A wickedly funny satire, brilliantly lampooning upper-class society. When Polly, a beautiful aristocrat, declares her love for her married, lecherous uncle - who also happens to be her mother's former lover - she sparks off a scandal that has both disastrous and delicious consequences. *Love in a Cold Climate* is an unforgettable tale of the absurdities and obsessions of the elite

□ **Love with a chance of drowning** – DeRoche 333p

Torre DeRoche is not someone you would ordinarily find adrift in the middle of the stormy Pacific aboard a leaky sailboat – total crew of two – struggling to keep an old boat, a new relationship and her floundering sanity afloat.But when she meets Ivan, a handsome Argentinean man with a humble sailboat and a dream to set off exploring the world, Torre has to face a hard decision: watch the man she's in love with sail away forever, or head off on the watery journey with him.

□ **Lovesong** – Alex Miller 354p

Seeking shelter in a Parisian cafe from a sudden rainstorm, John Patterner meets the exotic Sabiha and his carefully mapped life changes forever. Resonant of Alex Miller's bestselling *Conditions of Faith*, *Lovesong* tells the deeply moving story of their lives together, and of how each came undone by desire.

□**The luminaries** – Eleanor Catton 832p

The Luminaries is an extraordinary piece of fiction. It is full of narrative, linguistic and psychological pleasures, and has a fiendishly clever and original structuring device. Written in pitch-perfect historical register, richly evoking a mid-19th century world of shipping and banking and goldrush boom and bust, it is also a ghost story, and a gripping mystery. It is a thrilling achievement and will confirm for critics and readers that Catton is one of the brightest stars in the international writing firmament.

□**The Magus** – John Fowles 656p

a young Englishman, Nicholas Urfe, accepts a teaching position on a Greek island where his friendship with the owner of the islands most magnificent estate leads him into a nightmare. As reality and fantasy are deliberately confused by staged deaths, erotic encounters, and terrifying violence, Urfe becomes a desperate man fighting for his sanity and his life. A work rich with symbols, conundrums and labrinthine twists of event, *The Magus* isa work that ranks with the best novels of modern times.

□**Make me** – Lee Child 432p

Jack Reacher has no place to go, and all the time in the world to get there, so a remote rail road stop on the prairie with the curious name of Mother's Rest seems perfect for an aimless one-day stopover. He expects to find a lonely pioneer tombstone in a sea of nearly-ripe wheat…but instead there is a woman waiting for a missing colleague, a cryptic note about two hundred deaths, and a small town full of silent, watchful people. Reacher's one-day stopover turns into an open-ended quest leading to the most hidden reaches of the internet, and right into the nightmare heart of darkness

□**Mao's last dancer** – Li Cunxin 444p

The true story of a poor Chinese peasant boy who, plucked unsuspectingly at the age of ten from millions of others across the land to be trained as a ballet dancer, turned the situation to his advantage to become one of the world's greatest ballet stars. His childhood, despite the terrible hardships, is drawn with love and affection and contrasts starkly with the seven lonely years of gruelling training at the Peking Dance Academy. At the age of l8, Li performs at the Houston Ballet school in the US, which leads to his dramatic defection.

□ **The masque of the red death, & other stories** – Edgar Allan Poe 170p

Outside the abbey's armoured walls, the common poor are ravaged by a grisly pestilence known as the 'Red Death', while within, safe and untroubled, the happy Prince Prospero hosts lavish entertainments. But, in their immodest comfort, the Prince and his guests are not as safe as they hope from the horrors of the outside world…
In 'The Masque of the Red Death' and other tales of gothic horror, Edgar Allan Poe writes as no one else ever has of creeping, mounting terrors – of torments of ingenious, malevolent tormentors and of a mind's own sickening madness.

□**Master and commander** – Patrick O'Brien 437p

This, the first in the splendid series of Jack Aubrey novels, establishes the friendship between Captain Aubrey, R.N., and Stephen Maturin, ship's surgeon and intelligence agent, against a thrilling backdrop of the Napoleonic wars. Details of a life aboard a man-of-war are faultlessly rendered: the food, the floggings, the mysteries of the wind and the rigging, and the roar of broadsides as the great ships close in battle.

□**The medical detective: John Snow, cholera & the mystery of the broad street pump** – Sandra Hempel 321p

In 1831, an unknown, deadly disease swept across continental Europe and North America, killing millions and throwing the medical profession into confusion. cholera rocked the great centers of Victorian power. Sandra Hempel tells the story of a reclusive doctor who had the genius to look beyond the conventional wisdom of his day and uncover the truth behind the pandemic.

□ **The memory artist** – Katherine Brabon 400p

Pasha Ivanov is born in Moscow during Brezhnev's repressive rule over the Soviet Union. When Gorbachev promises glasnost, Pasha, an eager twenty-four year old, longs to create art and to carry on the work of those who came before him. He writes; falls in love. Yet that hope, too, fragments and by 1999 Pasha lives a solitary life in St Petersburg. Until a phone call in the middle of the night acts as a summons both to Moscow and to memory. Pasha's search to find meaning leads him to assemble a fractured story of Russia's traumatic past.

□ **The memory keeper's daughter** – Kim Edwards 401p

It should have been an ordinary birth, the start of an ordinary happy family. But the night Dr David Henry delivers his wife's twins is a night that will haunt five lives for ever.
For though David's son is a healthy boy, his daughter has Down's syndrome. And, in a shocking act of betrayal whose consequences only time will reveal, he tells his wife their daughter died while secretly entrusting her care to a nurse.
As grief quietly tears apart David's family, so a little girl must make her own way in the world as best she can.

□ **The memory of salt** – Alice Melike Ulgezer 320p

Ali's father is a Turkish circus musician performing in Kabul when Ali's mother, a young pediatrician from Melbourne, meets him in a bar. He plays the trumpet, the saz, the flute, hears voices that urge him to violence, sees angels in the skies and djinns in the street, inscribes prayers and invocations on the walls of his room, and across the suburb. Ülgezer offers a remarkable portrait of this crazed visionary, a madman and a mystic, intoxicated with hashish and Sufism, who wrecks the family, but is also an enchanted being. Ali's mother has grown up on Australia's outback frontiers – their courtship takes them from Afghanistan across Iran to Turkey and then to London where Ali is born. The novel is Ali's coming to terms with this meeting of two cultures that are at once so similar and so separate.

□ **The memory trap** – Andrea Goldsmith 344p

. Nina Jameson, an international consultant on memorial projects based in London, has been happily married to Daniel for twelve years. When her life falls apart she accepts a job in her hometown of Melbourne. There she joins her sister, Zoe, embroiled in her own problems with Elliot, an American biographer of literary women. And she finds herself caught up in age-old conflicts of two friends from her past: the celebrated pianist Ramsay Blake and his younger brother, Sean. All these people have been treading thin ice for far too long.

□ **Metamorphosis, & other stories** – Franz Kafka 298p

This collection of new translations brings together the small proportion of Kafka's works that he thought worthy of publication. It includes 'Metamorphosis', his most famous work, an exploration of horrific transformation and alienation; 'Meditation', a collection of his earlier studies; 'The Judgement', written in a single night of frenzied creativity; 'The Stoker', the first chapter of a novel set in America and a fascinating occasional piece and 'The Aeroplanes at Brescia', Kafka's eyewitness account of an air display in 1909. Together, these stories reveal the breadth of Kafka's literary vision and the extraordinary imaginative depth of his thought.

□**Middlesex –** Jeffrey Eugenides 529p

To understand why Calliope is not like other girls, she has to uncover a guilty family secret and the astonishing genetic history that turns Callie into Cal, one of the most audacious and wondrous narrators in contemporary fiction. Lyrical and thrilling, *Middlesex* is an exhilarating reinvention of the American epic.

□ **The mists of Avalon** – Marion Zimmer Bradley 1009p

This is the tragic tale of the rise and fall of Camelot - but seen through the eyes of Camelot's women: the devout Gwenhwyfar, Arthur's Queen; Vivane, High priestess of Avalon and the Lady of the Lake; above all, Morgaine, possessor of the sight, the wise, the wise-woman fated to bring ruin on them all. A timeless classic.

□ **More fool me: a memoir** – Stephen Fry 388p

In the late 80s and early 90s, Stephen Fry had, you might say, 'made it'. Loved for his roles in Blackadder and Jeeves and Wooster, acclaimed for his novel The Liar and surrounded by a glamorous and glittering cast of friends, Stephen discovered that success gave him a taste for excess. Plunging into the high life, he blazed brightly in public and partied unashamedly in private – insensible of the fall which inevitably lay ahead. How had Stephen – so driven to create and entertain – lost his way?

□ **Morse's greatest mystery and other stories** – Colin Dexter 282p

In short mysteries so brilliantly plotted they'll confound the cleverest of souls, Inspector Morse remains as patient as a cat at a mouse hole in the face of even the most resourceful evildoers. Muldoon, for instance, the one-legged bomber with one fatal weakness . . . the quartet of lovers whose bizarre entanglements Morse deciphers only after a beautiful woman is murdered . . . and those artful dodgers who catch the cunning and very respectful Morse with his pants down. There are mysteries featuring new characters and some familiar ones, including the great Sherlock Holmes, and a royal flush of American crooks.

□ **Mrs Dalloway** – Virginia Woolf 172p

Clarissa Dalloway, elegant and vivacious, is preparing for a party and remembering those she once loved. In another part of London, Septimus Warren Smith is shell-shocked and on the brink of madness. Smith's day interweaves with that of Clarissa and her friends, their lives converging as the party reaches its glittering climax.
Past, present and future are brought together one momentous June day in 1923. (Michael Cunningham's novel, *The Hours*, reframed *Mrs Dalloway* in a contemporary setting.)

□ **A Murder is announced** – Agatha Christie 382p

An announcement is placed in a small town newspaper advertisement—and Miss Marple must unravel the fiendish puzzle when a crime does indeed occur. A classic Agatha Christie mystery.

□**My Antonia** – Willa Cather 244p.

My Ántonia (pronounced with the accent on the first syllable of "Ántonia"), first published 1918, is considered one of the greatest novels by American writer Willa Cather. Antonia is the eldest daughter of the Shimerdas and is a bold and free-hearted young woman. Jim Burden, arrives in the town of Black Hawk, Nebraska, on the same train as the Shimerdas. Jim develops strong feelings for Ántonia, something between a crush and a filial bond, and the reader views Ántonia's life, including its attendant struggles and triumphs, through that lens.

□ **My brilliant career** – Miles Franklin 392p

When sixteen-year-old Miles Franklin began writing a thinly disguised novel about her youth in the Australian bush, she meant to 'show just how ridiculous the life around me would be as story material.' But when *My Brilliant Career* was published in 1901, it struck its author's native country like a small bomb and so scandalized Australians that Franklin demanded that it not be published again until ten years after her death. Today it remains electrifying for its passion, candor, and contrariness.

□ **My brilliant Friend** – Elena Ferente 331p

My Brilliant Friend is a ravishing, novel about a friendship that lasts a lifetime. The story of Elena and Lila begins in a poor but vibrant neighbourhood on the outskirts of Naples. The two girls learn to rely on each other ahead of anyone or anything else, each discovers more about who she is and suffers or delights in the throes of their intense friendship. a compulsively readable portrait of two young women, and also the story of a neighbourhood, a city and a country.

□ **My family & other animals** – Gerald Durrell 396p

A charming and comic autobiographical novel. Fleeing the gloomy British climate, the Durrell clan move to Corfu carrying the bare essentials of life: acne cures for Margo; revolvers for Leslie; books for Larry and a jam jar full of caterpillars for Gerry. Recounted with warmth and humour, it is a heart-warming portrait of an eccentric family surrounded by a wonderful cast of friends and fauna

□ **My sister's keeper** – Jodi Picoult 423p

Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age 13 she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions, and shots so that her older sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate - a life and a role that she has never challenged...until now. Like most teenagers, Anna is beginning to question who she truly is. But unlike most teenagers, she has always been defined in terms of her sister - and so Anna makes a decision that for most would be unthinkable, a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves.

□ **Native son** – Richard Wright 454p

Gripping and furious, *Native Son* follows Bigger Thomas, a young black man who is trapped in a life of poverty in the slums of Chicago. Unwittingly involved in a wealthy woman's death, he is hunted relentlessly, baited by prejudiced officials, charged with murder and driven to acknowledge a strange pride in his crime. *Native Son* shocked readers on its first publication in 1940 and went on to make Richard Wright the first bestselling black writer in America.

□ **The Natural way of things** – Charlotte Wood 315p

Two women awake from a drugged sleep to find themselves imprisoned in a broken-down property in the middle of a desert. Strangers to each other, they have no idea where they are or how they came to be there with eight other girls, forced to wear strange uniforms, their heads shaved, guarded by two inept yet vicious armed jailers and a 'nurse'. The girls all have something in common, but what is it? What crime has brought them here from the city? Who is the mysterious security company responsible for this desolate place with its brutal rules, its total isolation from the contemporary world?

□ **News from nowhere, & other writings** – William Morris 430p

Poet, pattern-designer, environmentalist and maker of fine books, William Morris (1834-96) was also a committed socialist and visionary writer, obsessively concerned with the struggle to achieve a perfect society on earth. News From Nowhere, one of the most significant English works on the theme of utopia, is the tale of William Guest, a Victorian who wakes one morning to find himself in the year 2102 and discovers a society that has changed beyond recognition into a pastoral paradise, in which all people live in blissful equality and contentment. A socialist masterpiece, News From Nowhere is a vision of a future free from capitalism, isolation and industrialisation. This volume also contains a wide selection of Morris's writings, lectures, journalism and letters, which expand upon the key themes of News From Nowhere.

□ **Night games: sex, power and sport** – Krien 270p

What does a young footballer do to cut loose? At night, some play what they think of as pranks, or games: night games with women. Sometimes these involve consensual sex, sometimes not, and often the lines are blurred. In *Night Games*, Anna Krien follows the rape trial of an Australian Rules footballer. She also takes a balanced and fearless look at the dark side of footy culture – the world of Sam Newman, Ricky Nixon, Matty Johns and the Cronulla Sharks. Both a courtroom drama and a riveting work of narrative journalism, this is a breakthrough book by one of the leading young lights of Australian writing.

□ **Nine days** – Toni Jordan 247p (with 1 Large Print Book : Seniors set)

It is 1939 and although Australia is about to go to war, it doesn't quite realise yet that the situation is serious. Deep in the working-class Melbourne suburb of Richmond it is business - your own and everyone else's - as usual. And young Kip Westaway, failed scholar and stablehand, is living the most important day of his life. Kip's momentous day is one of nine that will set the course for each member of the Westaway clan in the years that follow. At the heart of all their stories is Kip, and at the centre of Kip's fifteen-year-old heart is his adored sister Connie. They hold the threads that will weave a family.

□ **Nine folds make a paper swan** – Ruth Gilligan 329p

1901. Cork can sound very similar to New York to foreign ears and tired brains, so it's no surprise that Ruth's family - Jewish refugees fleeing the European pogroms - mistakenly disembark from their boat to America a few stops too soon. 1958. It's been years since Shem was struck mute at his bar mitzvah, forcing his mother to hand him over to the care of Catholic nuns. 2013. Aisling came to London to escape the Irish recession and concentrate on her career, not to fall in love. She would marry in a heartbeat if only his family didn't insist that the ceremony should be performed by a rabbi. Aisling looks to the past - from a rootless girl who never saw America to an outcast boy who never spoke again - to see if she can decide on her future.

□ **Nocturnes: five stories of music and nightfall** – Kazuo Ishiguro 221p

One of the most celebrated writers of our time gives us his first cycle of short fiction: five brilliantly etched, interconnected stories in which music is a vivid and essential character.

An exploration of love, need, and the ineluctable force of the past, *Nocturnes* reveals individuals to us with extraordinary precision and subtlety, and with the arresting psychological and emotional detail that has marked all of Kazuo Ishiguro's acclaimed works of fiction

□ **North and south** – Elizabeth Gaskell 450

Milton is a sooty, noisy northern town centred around the cotton mills that employ most of its inhabitants. Arriving from a rural idyll in the south, Margaret Hale is initially shocked by the social unrest and poverty she finds in her new hometown. However, as she begins to befriend her neighbours, and her stormy relationship with the mill-owner John Thornton develops, she starts to see Milton in a different light.

□ **Notes from the underground** – Fyodor Dostoevsky 151p

This darkly fascinating short novel depicts the struggles of a doubting, supremely alienated protagonist in a world of relative values. This seminal work introduced moral, religious, political and social themes that dominated Dostoyevsky's later masterworks.

□ **The Odyssey** – Homer; translated by Robert Fitzgerald 474p

The Odyssey is literature's grandest evocation of everyman's journey through life. In the myths and legends that are retold here, translator Robert Fagles has captured the energy and poetry of Homer's original in a bold, contemporary idiom and given us an *Odyssey* to read aloud, to savor, and to treasure for its sheer lyrical mastery.

□**Of mice and men** – John Steinbeck 121p

Drifters George and his simple-minded friend Lennie, have nothing in the world except each other and a dream –that one day they will have some land of their own, but their hopes are doomed as Lennie, struggling against cruelty, misunderstanding and jealousy, and becomes a victim of his own strength. Steinbeck tackles universal themes, giving voice to America's lonely and dispossessed.

□**On Chesil beach** – Ian McEwan 166p

In 1962, musician Florence dreams of the life she will create with Edward, the earnest young history student who loves her, but the glowing promise of the future cannot totally mask their worries about the wedding night. *On Chesil Beach* is the story of how a perfect love was threatened by reserve, fear and ignorance, how a life's path can be diverted by a gesture not made or a word not spoken.

□**On the road** – Jack Kerouac 290p

On the Road swings to the rhythms of 1950s underground America, jazz, sex, and drugs, with Sal Paradise and his hero Dean Moriarty, traveller and mystic, the living epitome of Beat. Now recognised as a modern classic, it goes racing towards the sunset with unforgettable exuberance, poignancy and autobiographical passion.

□**Oranges are not the only fruit** – Jeanette Winterson 224p

Winner of the Whitbread Prize for best first fiction, Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit is a coming-out novel from Winterson, the acclaimed author of The Passion and Sexing the Cherry. The narrator, Jeanette, cuts her teeth on the knowledge that she is one of God's elect, but as this budding evangelical comes of age, and comes to terms with her preference for her own sex, the peculiar balance of her God-fearing household crumbles.

□**People like us: how arrogance is dividing Islam & the west** – Waleed Aly 277p

People Like Us confronts the themes that define the chasm between east and west: women, jihad, secularism, terrorism, Reformation and modernity. Its piercing examination of these subjects reveals our thoughtless and destructive tendency to assume that the world's problems could be solved if only everyone became more like us.

□**Pesthouse** – Jim Crace 308p

Once the safest, most prosperous place on earth, the United States has become sparsely populated and chaotically unstable. Across the country, families have travelled toward the one hope left: passage on a ship to Europe. As Franklin Lopez makes his way towards the ocean, he finds Margaret. Tentatively, the two join forces, heading towards their future. With striking prose Jim Crace, creates a masterful tale of the human drive to endure.

□**Piano lessons** – Anna Goldsworthy 243p

Anna Goldsworthy was nine years old when she met the charismatic Russian émigré and world-class pianist who became her piano teacher. Mrs. Sivan brought to Anna's lessons a love of music, a generous spirit, and the courage to embrace a musical life. Anna discovers passion and ambition, confronts doubt and disappointment, and learns about much more than tone and technique.

□**Picnic at Hanging Rock** – Joan Lindsay 189p

In 1900, a class of young women from an exclusive private school go on an excursion to the isolated Hanging Rock, deep in the Australian bush. The excursion ends in tragedy when three girls and a teacher mysteriously vanish after climbing the rock. Only one girl returns, with no memory of what has become of the others . . .

□**The picture of Dorian Gray** – Oscar Wilde 253p

Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. He is drawn into a corrupt double life; indulging his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only his portrait bears the increasingly ghastly traces of his decadence. Early readers were shocked by its hints at unspeakable sins, and the book was later used as evidence against Wilde at the Old Bailey in 1895.

□ **Please don't leave me here** – Tania Chandler 290 P

Nobody knows why she was in the east of the city so early on the morning she was left for dead by a hit-and-run driver. It was the Thursday before Christmas 1994, and police discovered the body of a man beaten to death in her apartment. Fourteen years later, Brigitte is married to the detective who investigated the murder, which she claims to have lost her memory of in the car accident. They have young twins, and seem to be a happy family. Until the reopening of the cold case.

□**Please look after mother-** Kyung-Sook Shin 274

Travelling from the Korean countryside to the Seoul of her grown-up children, So-nyo is separated from her husband when the doors close on a packed train. As her children and husband search the streets, they recall So-nyo's life, and all they have left unsaid. Compassionate, redemptive and beautifully written, *Please look after Mother* will reconnect you to the story of your own family, and to the forgotten sacrifices that lie at its heart.

□**A Portrait of the artist as a young man** – James Joyce 384p

The portrayal of Stephen Dedalus's Dublin childhood and youth, his quest for identity through art and his gradual emancipation from the claims of family, religion and Ireland itself, is also an oblique self-portrait of the young James Joyce and a universal testament to the artist's 'eternal imagination'

□ **Possession** – A.S. Byatt 511p

A pair of young scholars research the lives of two Victorian poets. As they uncover their letters, journals, and poems, and track their movements from London to Yorkshire—from spiritualist séances to the fairy-haunted far west of Brittany—what emerges is an extraordinary counterpoint of passions and ideas. An intellectual mystery, and a triumphant love story.

□ **Pride and prejudice** – Jane Austen 427p

When Elizabeth Bennet first meets aristocrat Fitzwilliam Darcy, she thinks him arrogant and conceited. Handsome young Wickham tells her tales of Darcy's injustices that make her dislike him more than ever: "I had not known you a month before I felt that you were the last man in the world whom I could ever be prevailed on to marry." But everything changes when her young sister disgraces the family, and Darcy's true nature is revealed. A classic, with wit, humour and insight and a triumphant love story.

□ **Raising my voice** – Malalai Joya 278p

As a teenager Malalai Joya worked as a woman's rights activist under the Taliban, running underground classes and clinics in her native Afghanistan that would have resulted in her torture and execution if she'd been caught. After the fall of the Taliban, Malalai was elected as one of the few women to represent her province at the first assembly to frame a new Afghan constitution.

□**Ransom –** David Malouf 224p

David Malouf reimagines the pivotal narrative of Homer's *Iliad*—one of the most famous passages in all of literature. This is the story of the relationship between two grieving men at war: fierce Achilles, who has lost his beloved Patroclus in the siege of Troy; and woeful Priam, whose son Hector killed Patroclus and was in turn savaged by Achilles. A moving tale of suffering, sorrow, and redemption, *Ransom* is incandescent in its delicate and powerful lyricism and its unstated imperative that we imagine our lives in the glow of fellow feeling.

□**The remains of the day** – Kazuo Ishigura 245p

A funny, sad portrait of the perfect English butler. After three decades of service at Darlington Hall, and now dislocated by changing times, Stevens has the urge to take a driving journey to catch up with his former housekeeper. En route he reviews his life of self-effacing service, attempting to reassure himself that his dedication to his Lordship was meaningful and important. But now the nature of Lord Darlington's "greatness" and his own role begin to seem questionable, and his journey culminates in a heartbreaking realisation.

□ **Remembering Babylon** – David Malouf 182p

Written in language of astonishing poise and resonance. In the mid-1840s a thirteen-year-old British cabin boy, Gemmy Fairley, is cast ashore in the far north of Australia and taken in by aborigines. Sixteen years later he moves back into the world of Europeans, among hopeful yet terrified settlers. To them, Gemmy is a force that at once fascinates and repels. His own identity in this new world is as unsettling to him as the knowledge he brings to others of the savage, the aboriginal.

□ **Rendezvous at Kamakura Inn** – Marshall Browne 287p

Detective Inspector Hideo Aoki learns that his case against ex-Governor Tamaki--one that he has been building for months-- has been dismantled. Rattled by this directive, his life begins to spiral out of control, fueled by his obsession over the case, heavy drinking, and several repercussions too close to home. In an effort to help the emotionally unstable Aoki, the police department sends him to a remote Japanese mountain retreat. What was supposed to be a relaxing stay for the recently suspended investigator instead becomes a hotbed of suspense.

□ **Restless** – William Boyd 336p

It is 1939. Eva Delectorskaya is a beautiful 28-year-old Russian émigrée living in Paris. As war breaks out she is recruited for the British Secret Service by Lucas Romer, a mysterious Englishman, and under his tutelage she learns to become the perfect spy, to mask her emotions and trust no one, including those she loves most. Since the war, Eva has carefully rebuilt her life as a typically English wife and mother. But once a spy, always a spy. Now she must complete one final assignment, and this time Eva can't do it alone: she needs her daughter's help.

□ **Restoration** – Rose Tremain 382p

When a twist of fate delivers a young medical student to the court of King Charles II, he is thrust into a vibrant world of luxury and opulence. Blessed with a quick wit and sparkling charm, Merivel rises quickly, privileged with a position as 'paper groom' to one of the King's mistresses. But, falling in love with her, Merivel transgresses the one rule that will cast him out from his paradise. Merivel soon discovers that the King's pleasure is equally matched by his wrath..

□ **The road** – Cormac McCarthy 241p

A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. *The Road* boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son are sustained by love. It is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

□ **Robinson crusoe** – Daniel Defoe 304p

'It happen'd one Day about Noon going towards my Boat, I was exceeding surpriz'd with the Print of a Man's naked Foot on the Shore, which was very plain to be seen in the Sand: I stood like one Thunder-struck ...' The account of a sailor shipwrecked on a desert island for twenty-eight years, it is also a tale of mythic proportions, an allegory, and a spiritual autobiography

□ **A room of one's own** – Virginia Woolf 112p

A Room of One's Own grew out of a lecture that Virginia Woolf had been invited to give at Girton College, Cambridge in 1928. Ranging over Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte and why neither of them could have written *War and Peace*, over the silent fate of Shakespeare's gifted (and imaginary) sister, over the effects of poverty and chastity on female creativity, she gives us one of the greatest feminist polemics of the century

□ **The Rosie effect** – Graeme Simsion 415p

Don Tillman and Rosie Jarman are now married and living in New York. Don has been teaching while Rosie completes her second year at Columbia Medical School. Just as Don is about to announce that Gene, his philandering best friend from Australia, is coming to stay, Rosie drops a bombshell: she's pregnant. In true Tillman style, Don instantly becomes an expert on all things obstetric. But in between immersing himself in a new research study on parenting and implementing the Standardised Meal System (pregnancy version), Don's old weaknesses resurface. And while he strives to get the technicalities right, he gets the emotions all wrong, and risks losing Rosie when she needs him most.

□ **The Rosie project** – Graeme Simsion 329p

Don Tillman is getting married. He just doesn't know who to yet. But he has designed a sixteen-page questionnaire to help him find the perfect partner. The Wife Project teaches Don Why earlobe length is an inadequate predictor of sexual attraction. Why he's never been on a second date. And why, despite your best scientific efforts, you don't find love: love finds you.

□ **The sailor who fell from grace with the sea** – Yukio Mishima 181p

A band of thirteen-year-old boys reject the adult world as hypocritical and sentimental, and train themselves in a brutal callousness they call 'ojectivity'. When the mother of one of them begins an affair with a ship's officer, he and his friends idealize the man; but it is not long before they conclude that he is in fact soft and romantic. Their disappointment in him is seen as his betrayal, and they react violently.

□ **The scent of the night**– Andrea Camilleri 229p

Half the retirees in Vig'ata have invested their savings with a financial wizard who has disappeared, along with their money. As Montalbano investigates this labyrinthine financial scam, he finds himself at a serious disadvantage: a hostile superior has shut him out of the case, he's on the outs with his lover Livia, and his cherished Sicily is turning so ruthless and vulgar that Montalbano wonders if any part of it is worth saving.

□**The sea** – John Banville 263p

Professor John Sutherland, Chair of Judges, Man Booker Prize 2005 When art historian Max Morden returns to the seaside village where he once spent a childhood holiday, he is both escaping from a recent loss and confronting a distant trauma. The Grace family had appeared that long-ago summer as if from another world. Mr and Mrs Grace, with their worldly ease and candour, were unlike any adults he had met before. But it was his contemporaries, the Grace twins Myles and Chloe, who most fascinated Max. He grew to know them intricately, even intimately, and what ensued would haunt him for the rest of his years and shape everything that was to follow.

□ **The secret history** – Donna Tartt 628p

Under the influence of their charismatic classics professor, a group of clever misfits at an elite New England college discover a way of living that is a world away from the humdrum existence of their contemporaries. But when they go beyond the boundaries of normal morality their lives are changed profoundly and forever, and they discover how hard it can be to truly live and how easy it is to kill.

□ **The secret life of bees** – Sue Monk Kidd 375p

When Lily's black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the town's most vicious racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There they are taken in by a trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a story about divine female power and the transforming power of love.

□ **The secret river** – Kate Grenville 334p

In 1806 William Thornhill, an illiterate English bargeman, steals a load of wood and, as a part of his lenient sentence, is deported, along with his beloved wife, Sal, to the New South Wales colony in what would become Australia. *The Secret River* is the tale of William and Sal's deep love for their small, exotic corner of the new world, and William's gradual realization that if he wants to make a home for his family, he must forcibly take the land from the people who came before him.

□ **The secret scripture** – Sebastian Barry 300p

Roseanne McNulty, once the most beguiling women in Sligo, is now a resident of Roscommon Regional Mental Hospital and nearing her hundredth year. Set against an Ireland besieged by conflict, *The Secret Scripture* is an engrossing tale of one woman's life, a vivid reminder of the stranglehold that the Catholic Church had on individuals throughout the twentieth century

□ **The secret son** – Jenny Ackland 327 P

An Australian historian determined to find the truth, a stolen inheritance, a wishing tree, a long-lost grandmother, and an unlikely sweetheart come together in a dazzlingly original, audacious and exhilarating novel about love, honour and belonging, and what it means to be a good person. *The Secret Son* is a remarkable debut, a dazzlingly original, audacious and exhilarating novel. At once joyous and haunting, it is a moving meditation on love, honour and belonging, as well as a story about the strength of women and what it means to be a good man.

□**The sense of an ending** – Julian Barnes 160p

This novel follows a man who must contend with his past when his closest childhood friends return: one from the grave, another maddeningly present. Tony Webster's career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world

□ **A short history of tractors in Ukrainian** – Marina Lewycka 325p

When a newly widowed Ukrainian immigrant announces his intention to remarry, his daughters set aside their longtime feud to thwart him. His intended is an old-country gold digger with an appetite for the good life of the West. *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* combines sex, bitchiness, wit, and genuine warmth in its celebration of the pleasure of growing old disgracefully.

□**Siddhartha** – Hermann Hesse 120p

The Buddha's name was Prince Siddhartha Gautama. Inspired by his life, Hesse's book is set in India in the 6th century BC. A Brahmin's son leaves home to join the ascetics with his companion Govinda. The two set out in the search of enlightenment, and Siddhartha's journey takes him through the world of lust and greed. Near despair, Siddhartha comes to a river where he hears a sound that signals the true beginning of his life.

□**Silence** – Rodney Hall 208p

Silence is an exquisite, poignant collection of 'fictions' by one of Australia's finest writers. Each piece has its own startling imagery. This is a book that constantly surprises with its echoes of famous voices, and where the astonishing breadth of material - historical, personal, imagined - is held together by its central theme and by a web of subtle connections

□**The sisters of spicefield** – Fran Cusworth 297 p

Jessica and Matt Davidson, professional, middle-class Australians, have four beautiful children; three from IVF. When they donate one leftover embryo, it's a gift of thanks to the world for their luck; an offering to the fates. Seven years after this gift, the Davidsons have lost their youngest child Eeny to a genetic condition. A new girl starts at the children's school, and Jessica realises that this child, Mia, is her biological offspring; the embryo born of she and Matt's donation years before.

□**Six bedrooms** – Tegan Bennett Daylight 215p

Hot afternoons on school ovals, the terrifying promise of losing your virginity, sneaking booze from your mother's pantry, the painful sophistication and squalor of your first share house, cancer, losing a parent.Tegan Bennett Daylight's powerful collection captures the dangerous, tilting terrain of becoming adult. Over these ten stories, we find acute portrayals of loss and risk, of sexual longing and wreckage, blunders and betrayals. Threaded through the collection is the experience of troubled, destructive Tasha, whose life unravels in unexpected ways, and who we come to love for her defiance, her wit and her vulnerability.

□ **The slap** – Christos Tsiolkas 483p

Christos Tsiolkas exposes the inner- workings of domestic life, friendship and parenthood in the twenty-first century. When a man slaps another couple's child at a neighborhood barbecue, unforeseeable shockwaves affect the lives of those present. Told from the points of view of eight people, The Slap shows how a single action can change the way people think about how they live, what they want, and what they believe.

□ **Slaughterhouse-five** – Kurt Vonnegut 155p

Prisoner of war, optometrist, time-traveller - these are the life roles of Billy Pilgrim, hero of this miraculously moving, bitter and funny story of innocence faced with apocalypse. *Slaughterhouse 5* is one of the world's great anti-war books. Centring on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden in the Second World War, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know.

□ **Solar** – Ian McEwan 285p

Michael Beard is a Nobel Prize-winning physicist (and compulsive overeater) whose best work is behind him. Trading on his reputation, he half-heartedly heads a government-backed initiative tackling global warming. Michael's fifth marriage is floundering due to his incessant womanizing. When his professional and personal worlds collide in a freak accident, an opportunity presents itself for Michael to extricate himself from his marital problems, reinvigorate his career, and save the world from environmental disaster. But can a man who has made a mess of his life clean up the messes of humanity?

□ **Sold** – Brendan Gullifer 361p

Money. Lust. Real estate. *Sold* takes a fly-on-the-wall look at Melbourne's property industry. Set in the leafy, prosperous inner suburbs, it follows the fortunes and misfortunes of three agents as they jostle, thrive and try to survive.

□ **The sound and the fury** – William Faulkner 272p

The Sound and the Fury is the tragedy of the Compson family, featuring some of the most memorable characters in literature: beautiful, rebellious Caddy; the manchild Benjy; haunted, neurotic Quentin; Jason, the brutal cynic; and Dilsey, their black servant. Their lives fragmented and harrowed by history and legacy, the character's voices and actions mesh to create what is arguably Faulkner's masterpiece and one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century.

□ **The Speckled people: a memoir of a half-Irish childhood** – Hugo Hamilton 304p

We wear Aran Sweaters and Lederhosen. We are forbidden from speaking English. We are trapped in a language war. We are the Speckled People." In one of the most original memoirs to emerge in years, Hugo Hamilton tells the haunting story of his German-Irish childhood in 1950s Dublin. His Gaelic-speaking, Irish nationalist father rules the home with tyranny, while his German-speaking mother rescues her children with cakes and stories of her own struggle against Nazi Germany. Out on the streets of Dublin is another country, where they are taunted as Nazis and subjected to a mock Nuremberg trial. Through the eyes of a child, this rare and shockingly honest book gradually makes sense of family, language, and identity, unlocking at last the secrets that his parents kept in the wardrobe.

□ **Speechless** – James Button 246

Speechless is James' highly personal account of a year working in Canberra, seen from both the inside and the outside. It's told through his experience of Kevin Rudd's failure to tell his story, and how this helped destroy his prime ministership. It also reflects on how far the Labor Party has moved from the idealism and pragmatism of his father's generation. He ends on a note of hope for the Party's revival.

□**A spot of bother** – Mark Haddon 503p

At 61, George is settling down to a comfortable retirement when his tempestuous daughter, Katie, announces that she is getting re-married to Ray. Her family is not pleased – as her brother Jamie observes, Ray has "strangler's hands." Katie's mother Jean is a bit put out by all the planning and arguing the wedding has occasioned, which gets in the way of her late-life affair with one of her husband's ex-colleagues, and Jami's life crumbles when he fails to invite his lover, Tony, to the dreaded nuptials. Unnoticed in the uproar, George discovers a sinister lesion on his hip, and quietly begins to lose his mind.

□ **St Kilda blues** – Geoffrey McGeachin 381p

A serial killer's work goes unnoticed until Detective Berlin is on the case in this third spine-tingling Charlie Berlin novel. It's 1967, the summer of love, and in swinging Melbourne Detective Sergeant Charlie Berlin has been hauled out of exile in the Fraud Squad to investigate the disappearance of a teenage girl, the daughter of a powerful and politically connected property developer. As Berlin's inquiries uncover more missing girls he gets an uneasy feeling he may be dealing with the city's first serial killer.

□**Stasiland** – Anna Funder 288p

A powerfully rendered account of the resistance against East Germany's communist dictatorship in harrowing, personal tales of life under the iron fist of the Stasi, East Germany's brutal state security force. Funder's *Stasiland* is a masterpiece of investigative reporting, written with novelistic vividness and the compelling intensity of a universal, real-life story.

□ **Stealing picasso** – Anson Cameron 243p

When a sophisticated French beauty buys all Harry Broome's paintings at his first exhibition, he knows he's on his way. But to pay his debts and save his reputation, he is trapped in a plot to steal Picasso's Weeping Woman from the National Gallery of Victoria. When she goes missing the city's many treasure hunters come out to find her. Stretching from pre-war France to contemporary Australia, with a captivating cast of eccentric characters and a superbly engaging plot, Stealing Picasso tells of an art theft - which is based on a true story.

□**Stet: an editor's life** – Diana Athill 250p

A founding editor of the prestigious publishing house Andre Deutsch, Ltd., Athill takes us on a guided tour through the corridors of literary London, offering a keenly observed, devilishly funny, and always compassionate portrait of the glories and pitfalls of making books. Stet is a must-read for the literarily curious.

□**The stolen child**– Keith Donohue 319p

The double story of Henry Day begins in 1949, when he is kidnapped at age seven by a band of wild childlike beings who live in an ancient, secret community in the forest. The changelings rename their captive Aniday and he becomes unaging and stuck in time. They leave an imposter who must try–with varying success–to hide his true identity from the Day family. As the changeling Henry grows up, he is haunted by glimpses of his lost double and by vague memories of his own childhood. Moving from a realistic setting in small-town America deep into the forest of humankind's most basic desires and fears, this remarkable novel is a haunting fable about identity and the illusory innocence of childhood.

□ **The storied life of A.J.Fikry** – Gabrielle Zevin 243p

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

□ **The story of a marriage** – Andrew Sean Greer 195p

In 1953 A dutiful young housewife finds herself living in the Sunset District in San Francisco, caring not only for her husband but also for her son, who is afflicted with polio. Then a stranger appears on her doorstep, and everything changes. All the certainties by which Pearlie has lived and tried to protect her family are thrown into doubt. And what does the stranger want in return for his offer of a hundred thousand dollars?

□ **The strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** – Robert Louis Stevenson 177p

This intriguing combination of fantasy thriller and moral allegory depicts the gripping struggle of two opposing personalities — one essentially good, the other evil — for the soul of one man. More than a morality tale, this dark psychological fantasy is also a product of its time, drawing on contemporary theories of class, evolution, criminality, and secret lives.

□ **The strays** – Emily Bitto 290p

On her first day of school, Lily Struthers meets Eva, one of the daughters of the infamous avant-garde artist Evan Trentham. He and his wife are attempting to escape the stifling conservatism of 1930s Australia by inviting other like-minded artists to live and work with them at their family home. As Lily's friendship with Eva grows, she becomes infatuated with this artist colony, longing to truly belong to this makeshift family. Looking back on those years later in life, Lily realises that it was not Evan, nor the other artists he gathered around him, but his own daughters, who paid the debt that was owing

□ **A study in scarlet** – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 146p

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novel marked the very first appearance of Sherlock Holmes and his meeting with Doctor Watson.

□**Suite francaise** – Irene Nemirovsky 403p

When Irène Némirovsky began working on *Suite Française*, she was already a highly successful writer living in Paris. But she was also a Jew, and in 1942 she was arrested and deported to Auschwitz, where she died. For sixty-four years, this novel remained hidden and unknown.

□**Sum: 40 tales from the afterlives** – David Eagleman 107p

In one afterlife you may find that God is the size of a microbe and is unaware of your existence. In another, your creators are a species of dim-witted creatures who built us to figure out what they could not. These tales - at once witty, wistful and unsettling - are rooted in science and romance and awe at our mysterious existence while asking the key questions about death, hope, technology, immortality, love, biology, and desire that expose radiant new facets of our humanity.

□**Swallow the air** – Tara June Winch 189p

When May's mother dies suddenly, she and her brother Billy are taken in by an aunt. However their loss leaves them both searching for their place in a world that doesn't want them. May sets off to find her father and her Aboriginal identity.

□**The swan book** – Alexis Wright 334p

The Swan Book is set in the future, with Aboriginals still living under the Intervention in the north, in an environment fundamentally altered by climate change. It follows the life of a mute young woman called Oblivia from the displaced community where she lives in a swamp filled with rusting boats, and thousands of black swans, to her marriage to Warren Finch, the first Aboriginal president of Australia, and her elevation to the position of First Lady, confined to a tower in a flooded and lawless southern city. The Swan Book has all the qualities which made Wright's previous novel, Carpentaria, a prize-winning best-seller.

□**The sympathiser** – Viet Than Nguyen 371p

April 1975, Saigon is in chaos. A general of the South Vietnamese army is drinking whiskey and, with the help of his trusted captain, drawing up a list of those who will be given passage aboard the last flights out of the country. The general and his compatriots start a new life in Los Angeles, unaware that one among their number, the captain, is secretly reporting on the group to the Viet Cong. A gripping spy novel, an astute exploration of extreme politics, and a moving love story, The Sympathizer explores a life between two worlds and examines the legacy of the Vietnam War in literature, film, and the wars we fight today.

□ **The tall man** – Chloe Hooper 276p

In 2004 on Palm Island, a thirty-six-year-old man named Cameron Doomadgee was arrested for swearing at a white police officer. Forty minutes later he was dead in the jailhouse. Chloe Hooper spent three years travelling to some of the wildest and most remote parts of Australia, exploring Aboriginal myths and history and the roots of brutal chaos in the Palm Island community. Her stunning account goes to the heart of a struggle for power, revenge, and justice.

□ **Talk, talk** – T C Boyle 340p

For his riveting eleventh novel, Boyle offers readers the closest thing to a thriller he has ever written, a tightly scripted page turner about the trials of Dana Halter, a thirty-three-year-old deaf woman whose identity has been stolen. Featuring a woman in the lead role, *Talk Talk* is both a suspenseful chase across America and a moving story about language, love, and identity from one of America's most versatile novelists.

□**Teach us to sit still** – Tim Parks 335p

Bedevilled by a crippling condition which nobody could explain or relieve, he confronts hard truths about the relationship between the mind and the body, the hectic modern world and his life as a writer. *Teach Us To Sit Still* is the visceral, thought-provoking and improbably entertaining story of Tim Parks' quest to overcome ill health.

□**Tesla: man out of time** – Margaret Cheney 396p

Cheney explores the brilliant and prescient mind of one of the twentieth century's greatest scientists and inventors. Called a madman by his enemies, a genius by others, and an enigma by nearly everyone, Nikola Tesla was, without a doubt, a trailblazing inventor who created astonishing, sometimes world-transforming devices that were virtually without theoretical precedent.

□ **Things fall apart** – Chinua Achebe 151p

Things Fall Apart tells two intertwining stories, both centring on Okonkwo, a "strong man" of an Ibo village in Nigeria. The first traces Okonkwo's fall from grace with the tribal world. The second concerns the clash of cultures and the arrival of aggressive European missionaries. These perfectly harmonized twin dramas are informed by an awareness capable of encompassing at once the life of nature, human history, and the mysterious compulsions of the soul.

□ **Things we didn't see coming** – Steven Amsterdam 174p

Darkly comic, *Things We Didn't See Coming* follows a man over three decades as he tries to survive - and to retain his humanity - in a world savaged by successive cataclysmic events. Despite violence and brutality, we learn that even as the world is spinning out of control, essential human impulses still hold sway - that we never entirely escape our parents, envy the success of those around us and, chiefly, that we crave love.

□ **This is how** – M.J. Hyland 377p

When his fiancée breaks off their engagement, Patrick Oxtoby leaves home and moves to a boarding house in a seaside town. But in spite of his hopes and determination to build a better life, nothing goes to plan. A mesmerizing and meticulously drawn portrait of a man whose unease in the world leads to his tragic undoing. Written with wisdom and an astute insight into the human mind, M.J. Hyland's new book is a masterpiece that inspires horror and sympathy in equal measure.

□ **Three cups of tea: one man's mission to promote peace one school at a time** – Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin 349p

"Here we drink three cups of tea to do business; the first you are a stranger, the second you become a friend, and the third, you join our family, and for our family we are prepared to do anything even die." Haji Ali, Korphe Village Chief, Karakoram mountains, Pakistan.

□ **Three men in a boat** – Jerome K. Jerome 177p

Martyrs to hypochondria and general seediness, J. and his friends George and Harris decide that a jaunt up the Thames would suit them to a 'T'. But when they set off, they can hardly predict the troubles that lie ahead with tow-ropes, unreliable weather-forecasts and tins of pineapple chunks – not to mention the devastation left in the wake of J.'s small fox-terrier Montmorency.

□ **The three musketeers** – Alexandre Dumas 663p

Young D'Artagnan arrives in Paris to join the King's elite guards, but almost immediately finds he is duelling with some of the very men he has come to swear allegiance to - Porthos, Athos and Aramis, inseparable friends: the Three Musketeers. Soon part of their close band, D'Artagnan's loyalty to his new allies puts him in the deadly path of Cardinal Richlieu's machinations. And when the young hero falls in love with the beautiful but inaccessible Constance, he finds himself in a world of murder, conspiracy and intrigue.

□ **The time traveller's Wife** – Audrey Niffenegger 518p

This is the remarkable story of Henry DeTamble, a dashing, adventuresome librarian who travels involuntarily through time, and Clare Abshire, an artist whose life takes a natural sequential course. Henry and Clare's passionate love affair endures across a sea of time and captures the two lovers in an impossibly romantic trap, and it is Audrey Niffenegger's cinematic storytelling that makes the novel's unconventional chronology so vibrantly triumphant.

□ **The time we have taken** – Steven Carroll 327p

One summer morning in 1970, Peter van Rijn, proprietor of the television and wireless shop, pronounces his Melbourne suburb one hundred years old. As the suburb prepares to celebrate progress, Michael′s friend Mulligan is commissioned to paint a mural of the area′s history. But what vision of the past will his painting reveal?*The Time We Have Taken* is a powerfully moving tale of the rhythms of suburban life — its public and private reckonings.

□ **The tin drum** – Günther Grass 582p

Acclaimed as the greatest German novel written since the end of World War II, *The Tin Drum* is the autobiography of thirty-year-old Oskar Matzerath, who has lived through the long Nazi nightmare and who, as the novel begins, is being held in a mental institution. Willfully stunting his growth at three feet for many years, wielding his tin drum and piercing scream as anarchistic weapons, he provides a profound yet hilarious perspective on both German history and the human condition in the modern world.

□**The Tivington nott** – Alex Miller 167

Based on the lives of real people in Somerset on the borders of Exmoor, Miller tells his own story of a young labourer swept up in the adventure of riding a west country stag hunt. Finding himself in a closed social system in which he has neither status nor power, the young man identifies with the aberrant Tivington nott stag, which, despite its lack of antlers, has become a legend in the district for its ability to elude the hunt and to compete successfully with the antlered stags.

□**To kill a mockingbird** – Harper Lee 309p

The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, *To Kill A Mockingbird* became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, *To Kill A Mockingbird* takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos.

□ **To the lighthouse** – Virginia Woolf 267p

This novel is an extraordinarily poignant evocation of a lost happiness that lives on in the memory. For years now the Ramsays have spent every summer in their holiday home in Scotland, and they expect these summers will go on forever. In this, her most autobiographical novel, Virginia Woolf captures in a single afternoon the intensity of childhood longing and delight, and the shifting complexity of adult relationships. From an acute awareness of transience, she creates an enduring work of art.

□**Today** – David Miller 160p

August 1924. John Conrad arrives at his parents' home on the outskirts of Canterbury, where family and friends are assembling for the bank holiday weekend. His crippled mother has been discharged from a nursing home, his brother drives down from London with wife and child. But as the guests converge, John's father dies. Today follows the numb implications of sudden death: the surprise, the shock, the deep fissures in a family exposed through grief. But there is also laughter, fraud and theft; the continuation of life.

□ **Too close to the falls** – Catherine Gildiner 350 P

It is the mid-1950s in Lewiston, a sleepy town near Niagara Falls. Divorce is unheard of, mothers wear high heels to the beauty salon, and television has only just arrived. But with a workaholic father chosen by most of her class as Lewiston's present-day saint; a mother who looks the part of the perfect 1950s housewife but refuses to play it her highly unusual adventures make compulsive reading, hilariously counterbalanced by all the conventional concerns of 1950s small-town life. Like all really good memoirs, 'Too Close to the Falls' sneaks up on you; at first you're just reading it quietly to yourself and suddenly you're having to restrain yourself from reading great chunks out to everyone around you.

□ **Touching the void** – Joe Simpson 216p

Joe Simpson and his climbing partner had just reached the top of a 21,000-foot peak in the Andes when disaster struck. Simpson plunged off the vertical face of an ice ledge, breaking his leg. In the hours that followed, darkness fell and a blizzard raged as Yates tried to lower his friend to safety. Finally, Yates was forced to cut the rope, moments before he would have been pulled to his own death. How both men overcame the torments of those harrowing days is an epic tale of fear, suffering, and survival.

□ **Tree palace** – Craig Sherborne 328p

Living on the outskirts of society, Shane, Moira, Midge, and young Zara and Rory are searching for shelter. When they find an abandoned bush shack, things start looking up. But fifteen year old Zara has a newborn baby that she's desperate to ignore and before long Shane is in trouble with the police. A moving and lyrical meditation on the meaning of family, for fans of John Steinbeck.

□ **True north: the story of Mary & Elizabeth Durack** – Brenda Niall 291p

A biography of the remarkable Durack sisters and their love affair with their outback home.

□ **Tumbledown Manor** – Helen Brown 348 P

Romance writer Lisa Trumperton's daughter won't eat but has a new tattoo each week, and her Wall Street trader husband has run off with a woman at work. Lisa makes a quick escape, home to Australia, buying a grand old house in the country that once belonged to her great-grandfather. But Trumperton Manor has seen better days and defies Lisa's attempts to restore it. Add flood, fire and family secrets, and an overly familiar handyman, and the cracks begin to show. Tumbledown Manor is for anyone who believes it's never too late for a makeover.

□ **Ulysses** – James Joyce 657p

To this day *Ulysses* remains *the* modernist masterpiece, in which the author takes both Celtic lyricism and vulgarity to splendid extremes. It is funny, sorrowful, and even (in a close-focus sort of way) suspenseful. *Ulysses* is also a compulsively readable book. Even the verbal vaudeville of the final chapters can be navigated with relative ease, as long as you're willing to be buffeted, tickled, challenged, and (occasionally) vexed by Joyce's sheer command of the English language.

□**The unbroken line** – Alex Hammond 365p

When defence lawyer Will Harris is attacked by masked men with a clear message to back off, he has no choice but to listen. If only he knew what they were talking about. Under siege as his fledgling law firm struggles to get off the ground, Will agrees to defend the troubled son of a family friend. But the case is far from clear-cut, and the ethical boundaries murky. Instead of clawing his way out of trouble, Will finds he's sinking ever deeper.

□**The uncommon reader** – Alan Bennett 121p

When her corgis stray into a mobile library parked near Buckingham Palace, the Queen feels duty-bound to borrow a book. Discovering the joy of reading widely and intelligently, she finds that her view of the world changes dramatically. Abetted in her newfound obsession by Norman, a young man from the royal kitchens, the Queen comes to question the prescribed order of the world and loses patience with the routines of her role as monarch.

□**The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry** – Rachel Joyce 389p

When Harold Fry sets out one morning to post a letter to his dying friend Queenie he finds himself at the start of a journey that will have many beginnings, and for which he's entirely unprepared. This is a story about a huge leap of faith. It's about raw secrets tucked away behind net curtains and those moments of impulse and chance encounters that will transform us. It's about bravery and betrayal, love, loyalty and an unremarkable pair of yachting shoes. Above all, it is a book which will make your heart sing; a book about the power in how we touch each other's lives.

□ **Unparalleled sorrow: finding my way back from depression** – Barry Dickins 309p

In early 2008, Barry Dickins—an artist and author—suffered from insomnia. He went to the doctor, who cited clinical and severe depression as the cause. He checked in to a clinic and was told that he would be there until the joy returned to him. But the joy eluded Barry for months, and so for months he stayed alongside patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, and other traumas. He took his medication and succumbed to the electroconvulsive therapy, which left him unable to grip a pen and riddled his memory with holes. This heart-wrenching account follows Barry from the lows of the clinic to his eventual departure and the small joys of a game of tennis with his young son.

□ **An Unpolished gem** – Alice Pung 282p

This is an original take on a classic story – how a child of immigrants moves between two cultures. In place of piety and predictability, however, Unpolished Gem offers a vivid and ironic sense of both worlds. It combines the story of Pung"s life growing up in suburban Footscray with the inherited stories of the women in her family – stories of madness, survival and heartbreak. Original and brave, this is a 'girl's own' story that introduces an unforgettable voice.

□ **The vagrants: a novel** – Yiyun Li 337p

In luminous prose, award-winning author Yiyun Li weaves together the lives of unforgettable characters who are forced to make moral choices, and choices for survival, in China in the late 1970s. A spirited young woman, Gu Shan, once a devoted follower of Chairman Mao, has renounced her faith in Communism. Now a political prisoner, she is to be executed for her dissent. In this spellbinding novel, the brilliant Yiyun Li gives us a powerful and beautiful portrait of human courage and despair in dramatic times.

□ **Vanishing act** – Mette Jacobsen 217p

On a small snow-covered island lives twelve-year-old Minou, her philosopher Papa, Boxman the magician, and a clever dog called No-Name. A year earlier Minou's mother left the house wearing her best shoes and carrying a large black umbrella. She never returned.One morning Minou finds a dead boy washed up on the beach. Her father decides to lay him in the room that once belonged to her mother. Can her mother's disappearance be explained by the boy? Will Boxman be able to help find her? Minou, unwilling to accept her mother's death, attempts to find the truth.

□ **Vile bodies** – Evelyn Waugh 223p

The novel traces the shallow and frenetic lives of a group of 'bright young things' during Britain's interwar period. Jaded by the death and destruction of the Great War, they seek pleasure and distraction with no thought for the future. Hero Adam Fenwick-Symes seeks to marry Nina in a parody of romantic convention but war looms, Adam's circle of friends disintegrates, and Adam and Nina's engagement flounders. At the book's end, we find Adam alone on an apocalyptic European battlefield.

□ **Warning: the story of Cyclone Tracey** – 306p

When Cyclone Tracy swept down on Darwin at Christmas 1974, the weather became not just a living thing but a killer. Tracy destroyed an entire city, left seventy-one people dead and ripped the heart out of Australia's season of goodwill.

□ **Water for elephants** – Sara Gruen 335p

Though he may not speak of them, the memories still dwell inside Jacob Jankowski's mind of the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. A world filled with freaks and clowns, with wonder and pain. Surprising, poignant, and funny, *Water for Elephants* is that rare novel with a story so engrossing, one is reluctant to put it down; with characters so engaging, they continue to live long after the last page has been turned; with a world built of wonder, a world so real, one starts to breathe its air.

□ **We** – Yevgeny Yamyatin 203p

In the One State of the great Benefactor, there are no individuals, only numbers. Life is a process of mathematical precision. Now, with the creation of the spaceship *Integral,* outer space will also be subjugated to the yoke of reason. One number, D-503, chief architect of the *Integral,* decides to record his thoughts in the final days before the launch. But a chance meeting with the beautiful 1-330 results in an unexpected discovery that threatens everything D-503 believes about himself and the One State.

□**We need to talk about Kevin** – Lionel Shriver 468p

Lionel Shriver's resonant story of a mother's unsettling quest to understand her teenage son's deadly violence, her own ambivalence toward motherhood, and the explosive link between them, reverberates with the haunting power of high hopes shattered by dark realities.

□ **Weapons of choice** – John Birmingham 520p

A military experiment in the year 2021 has thrust an American-led multinational armada back to 1942, right into the middle of the U.S. naval task force speeding toward Midway Atoll—and what was to be the most spectacular U.S. triumph of the entire war.These veterans of Pearl Harbour have never seen a helicopter, or a satellite link, or a nuclear weapon. They've never encountered an African American colonel or a British naval commander who was a woman *and* half-Pakistani. Initial jubilation is quickly doused by the chilling realization that the time travellers themselves have rendered history null and void.

□**Welcome to your new life** – Anna Goldsworthy 220p

When Anna Goldsworthy, pianist and perfectionist, falls pregnant with her first child, her excitement is tempered by the daunting journey ahead. In *Welcome to Your New Life*, she shares the dizzying wonder and crippling anxiety that come with creating new life. *Welcome to Your New Life* evokes the shock of plunging into a life-changing adventure and the kicking required to return to the surface.

□ **What came before** – Anna George 254p

'My name is David James Forrester. I'm a solicitor. Tonight, at 6.10, I killed my wife. This is my statement.' In Melbourne's inner west, David sits in his car, dictaphone in hand. He's sick to his stomach but determined to record his version of events. His wife Elle hovers over her own lifeless body as it lies in the laundry of the house they shared. David thinks back on their relationship – intimate, passionate, intense – and what led to this terrible night.

□ **What we talk about when we talk about love** – Raymond Carver 134p

Much of what happens in *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (1981) happens offstage, and we're left with tragedy's props: booze, instant coffee, furniture from a failed marriage, cigarettes smoked in the middle of the night. This is not merely a matter of technique. Carver leaves out a great deal, but that's only a measure of his characters' vulnerability, the nerve endings his stories lay bare. To say anything more, one feels, would simply hurt too much. *--Mary Park*

□**When we were bad: a novel** – Charlotte Mendelson 324p

Claudia Rubin is in her heyday. Wife, mother, rabbi and sometime moral voice of the nation, everyone wants to be with her at her older son's glorious February wedding. Until Leo becomes a bolter and the heyday of the Rubin family begins to unravel. 'As intelligent as it is funny. A beautifully observed literary comedy as well as a painfully accurate description of one big old family mess' *Observer*

□ **Whisper of leaves** – K.S.Nikakis 415p

Kira Chronicles, Book 1.(Fantasy) In seasons long past, twin gold-eyed princes sundered a kingdom. Rejecting his twin brother's warrior ways, Kasheron established a community deep in the southern forests. Forgotten by the outside world and protected by the trackless trees of Allogrenia, Kasheron's Tremen community has flourished, with his legacy of peace and healing upheld generations on. But now the forest has been breached by hostile intruders ...

□ **White Fang** – Jack London 307p

Born in the wilds of the freezing cold Yukon, White Fang - half-dog, half-wolf - is the only animal in the litter to survive. He soon learns the harsh laws of nature, yet buried deep inside him are the distant memories of affection and love. Will this fiercely independent creature of the wild learn to trust man again?

□ **The white tiger** – Aravind Adiga 321p

A memorable tale of one taxi driver's hellish experience in modern India. The white tiger of this novel is Balram Halwai, a poor Indian villager whose great ambition leads him to the zenith of Indian business culture, the world of the Bangalore entrepreneur. Amoral, irreverent, deeply endearing, and utterly contemporary, this novel is an international publishing sensation.

□ **The wind-up bird chronicle** – Haruki Murakami 609p

In a Tokyo suburb a young man named Toru Okada searches for his wife's missing cat. Soon he finds himself looking for his wife as well in a netherworld that lies beneath the placid surface of Tokyo. As these searches intersect, Okada encounters a bizarre group of allies and antagonists. Gripping, prophetic, suffused with comedy and menace, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* is a tour de force.

□ **The woman in black** – Susan Hill 160p

The *Woman in Black* has as its hero Arthur Kipps, an up-and-coming young solicitor who has come north from London to attend the funeral and settle the affairs of Mrs. Alice Drablow of Eel Marsh House. The routine formalities he anticipates give way to a tumble of events more sinister and terrifying than any nightmare: the rocking chair in the deserted nursery, the eerie sound of a pony and trap, a child's scream in the fog, and most dreadfully the Woman in Black. A brilliant exercise in atmosphere and controlled horror, and a delicious spine-tingler.

□**The women in black** – Madeleine St John 233p

A classic novel about the women working in the ladies' frocks section of a department store in Sydney in the 1950s. Written by a superb novelist of contemporary manners, *The Women in Black* is a fairy tale that illuminates the extraordinariness of ordinary lives.

□**A world of other people** – Steven Carroll p

A World of Other People is a life-affirming evocation of love in war time, when every decision, and every day, matters. Set in 1941 during the Blitz, Steven Carroll's cinematic new novel traces the love affair of an Australian pilot in Bomber Command, and a forthright young Londoner, finding her voice as a writer. Haunted by secrets and malign coincidence, the couple struggles to build a future free of society's thin-lipped disapproval. A delicate yet unflinching piece of historical fiction that captures quiet romance in the midst of great unrest.

□ **Wuthering Heights** – Emily Bronte 395p

Wuthering Heights is a wild, passionate story of the intense and almost demonic love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a foundling adopted by Catherine's father. The action of the story is chaotic and unremittingly violent, but the accomplished handling of a complex structure, the evocative descriptions of the lonely moorland setting and the poetic grandeur of vision combine to make this unique novel a masterpiece of English literature.

□ **The year of living dangerously** – Christopher Koch 296p

Jakarta 1965.Western correspondents record the gathering storm of an abortive revolution, seeing it as a shadow play and barely registering the real-life sufferings of the Indonesian people. A complex personal tragedy of love, obsession and betrayal comes to its climax.

□ **Zen and the art of motorcycle maintenance** – Robert Persig 417p

One of the most important and influential books written in the past half-century, Robert M. Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* is a powerful, moving, and penetrating examination of how we live . . . and a breathtaking meditation on how to live better. An unforgettable narration of a summer motorcycle trip across America's Northwest that becomes a profound personal and philosophical odyssey into life's fundamental questions. This modern classic is both touching and transcendent, resonant with the myriad confusions of existence . . . and the small, essential triumphs that propel us forward.