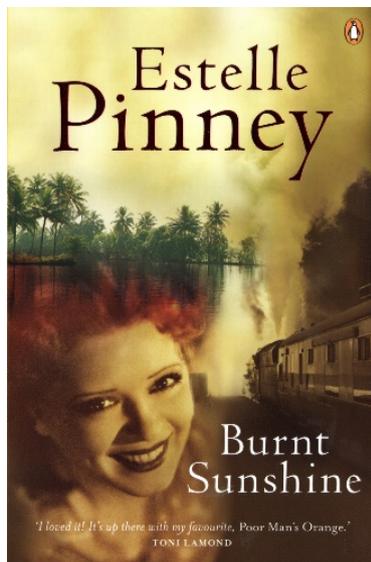


# RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER READERS

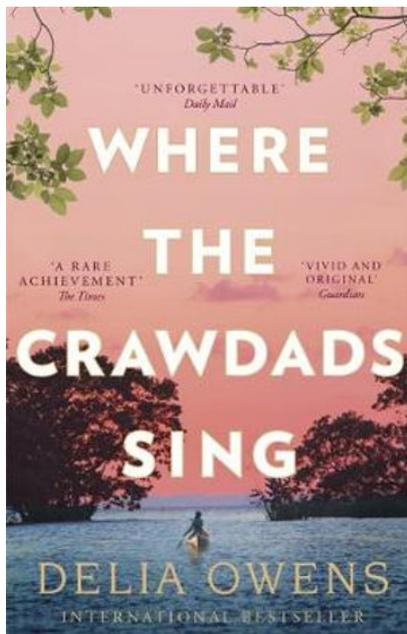
## Fiction

### **Burnt Sunshine - Estelle Pinney** (Thanks Camille)



*A bet in half-jest, a ruby and a passionate love affair take a man and a woman in an unexpected direction . . . Sydney, 1936, and the gorgeous Greta Osborne is a burgeoning stage star about to join the famous Palace Theatre in New York. But meeting married British naval officer Andrew Flight changes everything. Falling recklessly and deeply in love, Greta waives aside any thoughts of America and Andrew jumps ship. The pair flee to a small tobacco town in Far North Queensland, where their arrival is viewed with suspicion and speculation. Caught up in the social unrest and hardship of the Great Depression, the couple is soon pushed further north to a remote island in Papua New Guinea, where they hope to settle and at last find peace. Bravely battling disapproval, disappointment and near-tragic loss, together the pair's sustaining love helps them laugh, triumph and take on the world.*

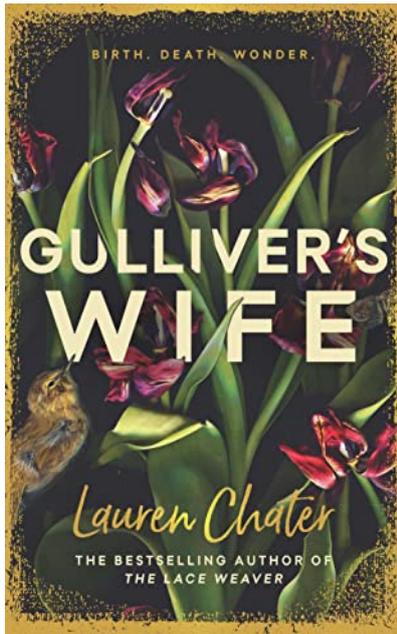
### **Where The Crawdads Sing - Delia Owens** (Thanks Binnie)



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

Perfect for fans of Barbara Kingsolver and Celeste Ng, *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

## Gulliver's Wife - Lauren Chater (Thanks Michelle)



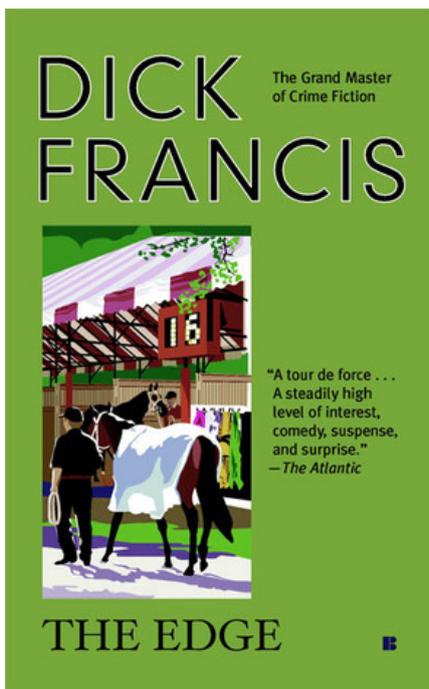
Birth. Death. Wonder ... One woman's journey to the edge of love and loyalty from the bestselling author of *The Lace Weaver*.

London, 1702. When her husband is lost at sea, Mary Burton Gulliver, midwife and herbalist, is forced to rebuild her life without him. But three years later when Lemuel Gulliver is brought home, fevered and communicating only in riddles, her ordered world is turned upside down.

In a climate of desperate poverty and violence, Mary is caught in a crossfire of suspicion and fear driven by her husband's outlandish claims, and it is up to her to navigate a passage to safety for herself and her daughter, and the vulnerable women in her care.

When a fellow sailor, a dangerous man with nothing to lose, appears to hold sway over her husband, Mary's world descends deeper into chaos, and she must set out on her own journey to discover the truth of Gulliver's travels . . . and the landscape of her own heart.

## The Edge - Dick Francis (Thanks Penny)

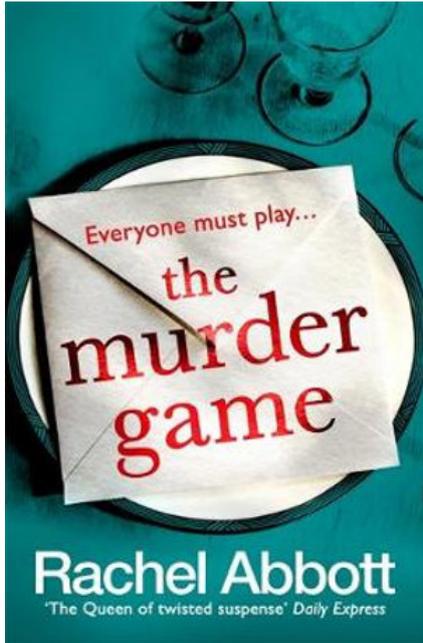


A high-class, transcontinental horse-racing junket should be an idyllic getaway for the super-rich. But one passenger on this train is a sociopath – a genius at blackmail and criminal corruption – and he plans to take everyone for everything they've got.

To the Jockey Club, the racing world would be a better place without Julius Apollo Filmer. An expert in corruption with a devastating line in witness intimidation – and a slippery character to put behind bars. Baffled, they call in undercover security agent Tor Kelsey to keep an unflinching eye on Filmer and his associates. A mission that takes him from the finest of English racecourses to the wild Canadian interior – on a luxury transcontinental train journey to end them all.

On board, a troupe of actors are playing out a murder mystery for the amusement of their diamond-studded passengers. Ideal cover for a secret investigator with secrets of his own.

## The Murder Game - Rachel Abbott (Thanks Camille)



We were all there that day. Now one of us is dead...

The first time Jemma and Matt were invited to Polskirrin - Lucas Jarrett's imposing ocean-view home - it was for an intimate wedding that ended in tragedy. Jemma will never forget the sight of the girl's body floating towards the rocky shore.

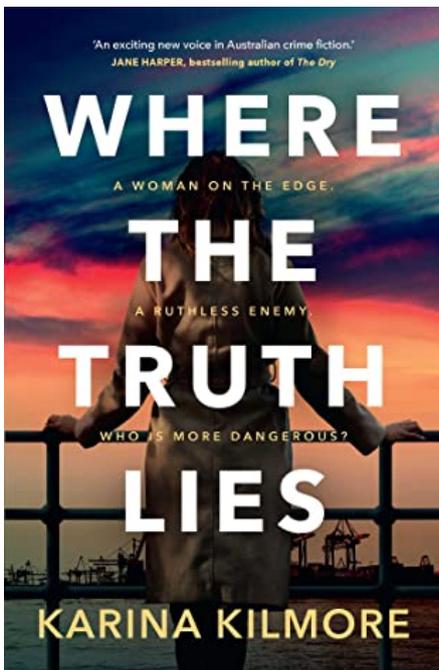
Now, exactly one year later, Lucas has invited his guests back for a macabre anniversary.

But what Lucas has in store for them is nothing like a candlelight vigil. Someone who was there that night remembers more than they'll admit to, and Lucas has devised a game to make them tell the truth.

Jemma believes she and Matt know nothing about what happened... but what if she's wrong? Before you play a deadly game, make sure you can pay the price...

A compulsive psychological thriller in a stunning setting that will have you gripped until the last page.

## Where The Truth Lies - Karina Kilmore (Thanks Lois)

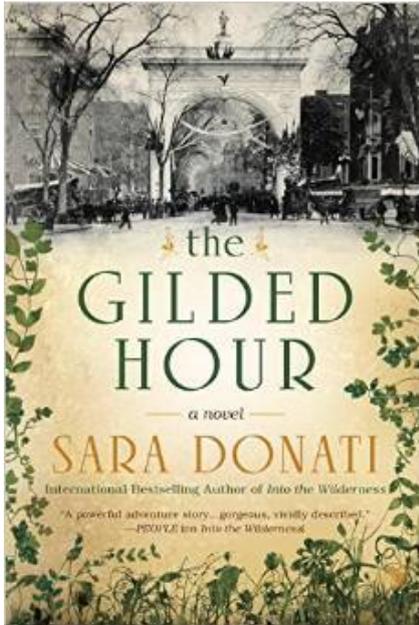


When investigative journalist Chrissie O'Brian lands a senior job at *The Argus*, she is desperate to escape the nightmares of her past. Her life has become a daily battle not to numb the pain with drugs and alcohol. But her job is something she does better than anyone else – and the only thing that's keeping her anchored to this world.

A face-off on the waterfront between the unions and big business is just the kind of headline-grabbing story to get her career back on track. But when a female dockworker whose warnings Chrissie ignored turns up dead, she becomes obsessed with unravelling the truth about an accident she suspects was straight out murder.

When another worker dies and a gruesome threat lands on her desk, it's clear someone will do anything to stop her. But this is one battle Chrissie won't give up without a fight.

## The Gilded Hour - Sara Donati (Thanks Barb)

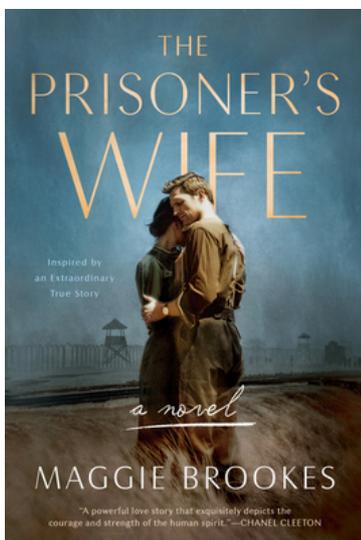


The year is 1883, and in New York City, it's a time of dizzying splendor, crushing poverty, and tremendous change. With the gravity-defying Brooklyn Bridge nearly complete and New York in the grips of anti-vice crusader Anthony Comstock, Anna Savard and her cousin Sophie—both graduates of the Woman's Medical School—treat the city's most vulnerable, even if doing so may put everything they've strived for in jeopardy.

Anna's work has placed her in the path of four children who have lost everything, just as she herself once had. Faced with their helplessness, Anna must make an unexpected choice between holding on to the pain of her past and letting love into her life.

For Sophie, an obstetrician and the orphaned daughter of free people of color, helping a desperate young mother forces her to grapple with the oath she took as a doctor—and thrusts her and Anna into the orbit of Anthony Comstock, a dangerous man who considers himself the enemy of everything indecent and of anyone who dares to defy him.

## The Prisoner's Wife - Maggie Brookes (Thanks Lois)



Inspired by the true story of a daring deception that plunges a courageous young woman deep into the horrors of a Nazi POW camp to be with the man she loves.

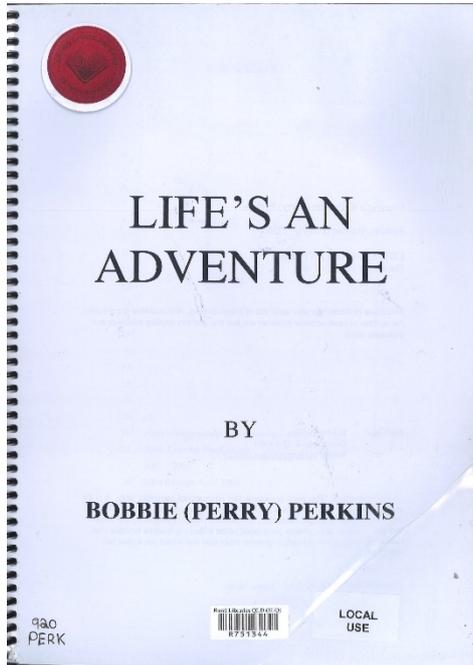
In the dead of night, a Czech farm girl and a British soldier travel through the countryside. Izabela and prisoner of war Bill have secretly married and are on the run, with Izzy dressed as a man. The young husband and wife evade capture for as long as possible--until they are cornered by Nazi soldiers with tracking dogs.

Izzy's disguise works. The couple are assumed to be escaped British soldiers and transported to a POW camp. However, their ordeal has just begun, as they face appalling living conditions and the constant fear of Izzy's exposure. But in the midst of danger and deprivation comes hope, for the young couple are befriended by a small group of fellow prisoners. These men become their new family, willing to jeopardize their lives to save Izzy from being discovered and shot.

*The Prisoner's Wife* tells of an incredible risk, and of how our deepest bonds are tested in desperate times. Bill and Izzy's story is one of love and survival against the darkest odds.

## Non Fiction

### **Life's An Adventure - Bobbie (Perry) Perkins** (Thanks David)

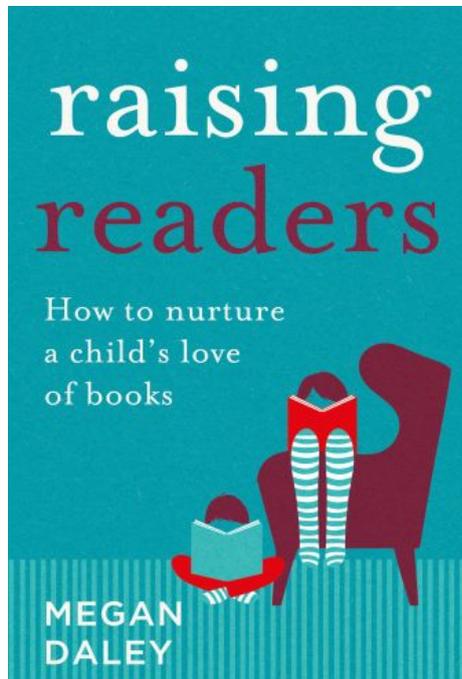


Bobbie Perkins is one of our own – a long-time Goondiwindi resident, with an interesting journey, with many tales to share and for us to enjoy.

*When one is a child nearly everything is an adventure. The whole world is new and exciting.*

So begins Bobbie's adventure. Her warmly written story take us from her home in Indiana U.S.A., by sea, to Australia in 1970. Her travels and experiences take her through much of our beautiful land, the Kimberley, Simpson Desert, Canning Stock Route and outback Queensland. Many personal anecdotes and encounters bring the people and the surroundings to life in a way that will touch your heart.

### **Raising Readers - Megan Daley** (Thanks Sarah-Jane)

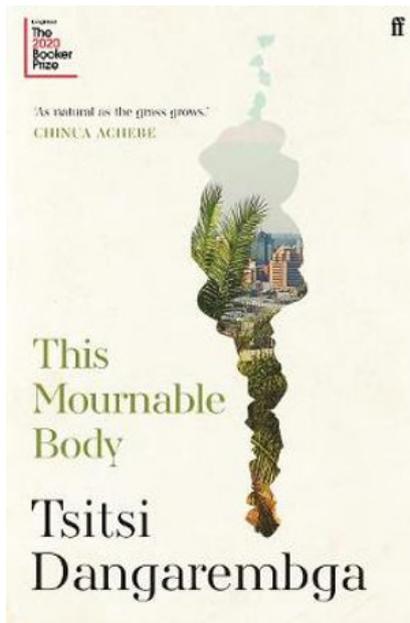


**Some kids refuse to read, others won't stop - not even at the dinner table!**

Either way, many parents question the best way to support their child's literacy journey. When can you start reading to your child? How do you find that special book to inspire a reluctant reader? How can you tell if a book is age appropriate? What can you do to keep your tween reading into their adolescent years? Award-winning teacher librarian Megan Daley has the answers to all these questions and more. She unpacks her fifteen years of experience into this personable and accessible guide, enhanced with up-to-date research and first-hand accounts from well-known Australian children's authors.

It also contains practical tips, such as suggested reading lists and instructions on how to run book-themed activities. *Raising Readers* is a must-have guide for parents and educators to help the children in their lives fall in love with books.

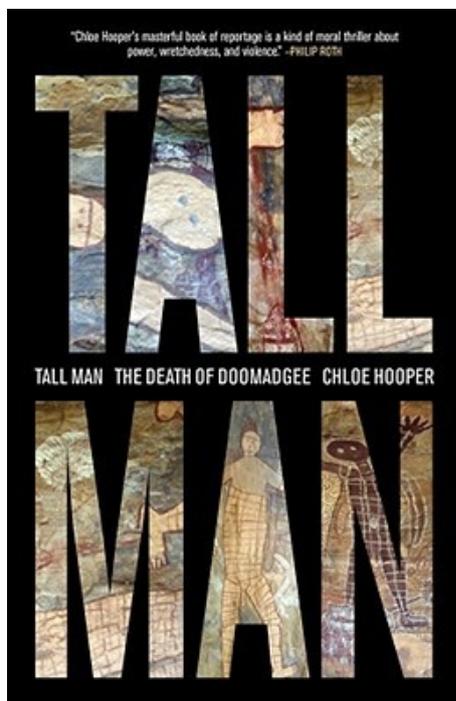
## This Mournable Body - Tsitsi Dangarembga (Thanks Di)



Anxious about her prospects after leaving a stagnant job, Tambudzai finds herself living in a run-down youth hostel in downtown Harare. For reasons that include her grim financial prospects and her age, she moves to a widow's boarding house and eventually finds work as a biology teacher. But at every turn in her attempt to make a life for herself, she is faced with a fresh humiliation, until the painful contrast between the future she imagined and her daily reality ultimately drives her to a breaking point.

In *This Mournable Body*, Tsitsi Dangarembga returns to the protagonist of her acclaimed first novel, *Nervous Conditions*, to examine how the hope and potential of a young girl and a fledgling nation can sour over time and become a bitter and floundering struggle for survival. As a last resort, Tambudzai takes an ecotourism job that forces her to return to her parents' impoverished homestead. It is this homecoming, in Dangarembga's tense and psychologically charged novel, that culminates in an act of betrayal, revealing just how toxic the combination of colonialism and capitalism can be.

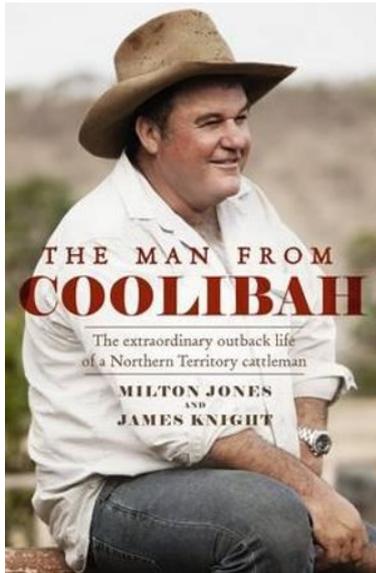
## The Tall Man - Chloe Hooper (Thanks Julia)



In 2004 on Palm Island, an Aboriginal settlement in the "Deep North" of Australia, 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. The police claimed he'd tripped on a step, but his liver was ruptured. The main suspect was Senior Sergeant Christopher Hurley, a charismatic cop with long experience in Aboriginal communities and decorations for his work.

Chloe Hooper was asked to write about the case by the pro bono lawyer who represented Cameron Doomadgee's family. He told her it would take a couple of weeks. She spent three years following Hurley's trail 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.

## The Man From Coolibah - Milton Jones & James Knight (Thanks Sue)

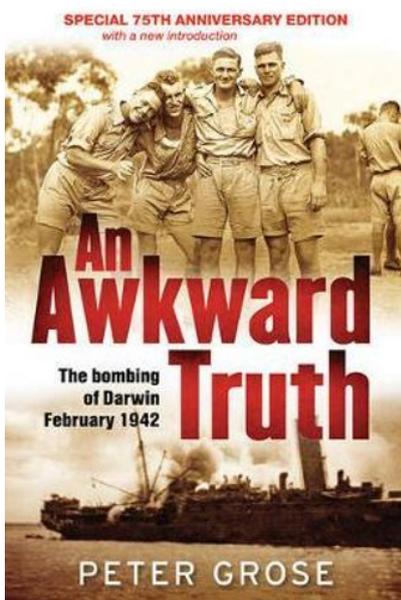


In the tradition of *Mailman of the Birdsville Track*, *The Man from Coolibah* details the life of outback cattle property owner, helicopter muster operator and knockabout bloke Milton Jones. The youngest in a family of five, Milton Jones grew up on large properties in the outback. His father was a farm manager and so his early life was a world away from that of city kids. Milton left school in Queensland in his mid-teens and moved back to the Northern Territory. Mustering was in his blood and so his first job was as a bullcatcher. Milton Jones is a man of his environment; tough and hardworking with a firm opinion on most things that he isn't afraid

to share. The story of how he bought Coolibah Station in 1988 in cash and the way he has built up his country empire is just one element of this book. For him, wrangling crocs, mustering cattle, fighting bush fires and riding rodeo are the norm. Over 500km away from nearest city, Darwin, his life is lived on horseback, his days ruled by the sunlight. With the help of a seasonal workforce, plus his 42 choppers and a dozen or so horses, his business musters cattle from across the territory.

*The Man from Coolibah* shows us what it is like to live in the never never and brings the Outback to life. For the men and women who live in Milton's world, things are changing but the harshness and beauty of the outback stays the same.

## An Awkward Truth -- The Bombing of Darwin February 1942 - Peter Grose

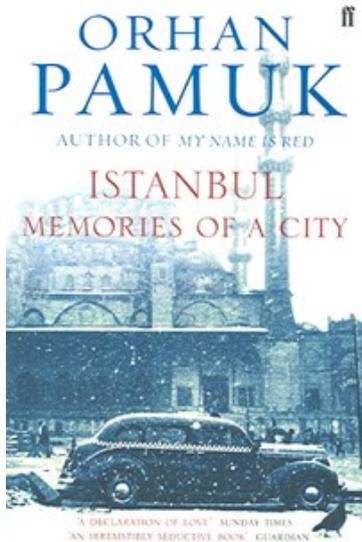


The bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942 is the battle Australia tries to forget. Although there was much to be proud of that day - courage, mateship, determination and improvisation - the dark side of the story lingers: looting, desertion and a calamitous failure of Australian leadership.

The Japanese struck with the same carrier-borne force that devastated Pearl Harbor only ten weeks earlier. There was a difference: they dropped more bombs on Darwin, killed more civilians in Darwin, and sank more ships in Darwin than in Pearl Harbor. It remains the single deadliest event in Australian history. Yet the story has remained in the shadows.

Absorbing, spirited and fast-paced, *An Awkward Truth* is a compelling and revealing story of the day war first came to Australia, and of the under-armed and unprepared soldiers and civilians who faced their toughest test on home soil.

## Istanbul: Memories of a City - Orhan Pamuk Thanks Di)

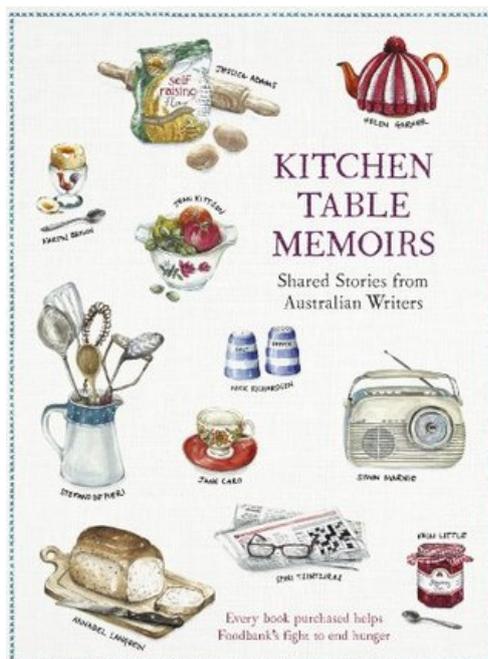


In 1909 a young Australian actress made headlines around the world when she took to the sky over the British Houses of Parliament in an air balloon emblazoned with the slogan 'Votes for Women'. When prevailing winds forced her to sail around London instead, she succeeded in dropping leaflets all over the city.

A year earlier, Muriel Matters, who became known as 'that daring Australian girl', had chained herself to an iron grille in the British House of Commons to protest against women being segregated in Parliament, thus becoming the first woman to speak in the House.

She was sent to Holloway Prison for her crime, and on her release she added prison reform to her list of campaigns. She went on to become an avid suffragette, touring England in a horse-drawn caravan to promote her cause, and using street art to spread the word.

## Kitchen Table Memoirs - Shared Stories From Australian Writers (Thanks Cherry)



In the map of our daily lives, the kitchen table is where we stop for sustenance. What other piece of furniture has witnessed so much and revealed so little? Here, for the first time, some of Australia's best writers and best-loved identities tell their kitchen table memory, complete with gravy stains, bent forks and the odd tale of love and death. Whether it is oak, pine, Laminex, varnished, recycled or modernist glass - in the domestic geography of our daily lives, the kitchen table is a constant. A silent witness to sustenance and solace, deliberation and argument, consolation and celebration. What other piece of furniture has witnessed so much and revealed so little? Here, for the

first time, some of Australia's favourite writers and best-loved foodies share their very personal kitchen table memories, complete with gravy stains, bent forks and the odd tale of love and death. From Denise Scott's bittersweet recollection of chats around the table with her mother; to Martin Brown's tribute to the unique and forgotten sport of table climbing; to Helen Garner's quest to find the table that fitted her home and reflected her life - this charming anthology celebrates a beloved domestic touchstone where our lives, memories, stories and favourite recipes intersect. What's your favourite kitchen table memory?