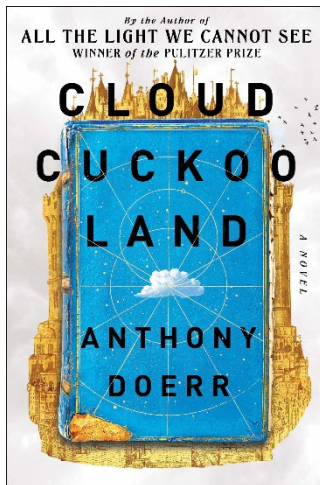


## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER READERS

<https://www.grc.qld.gov.au/homepage/108/library-lovers-book-group-online>

### *Cloud Cuckoo Land* / Anthony Doer Fiction 2021



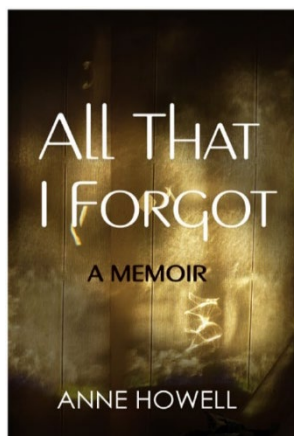
Bound together by a single ancient text, the unforgettable characters of *Cloud Cuckoo Land* are dreamers and outsiders figuring out the world around them.

Thirteen-year-old Anna and Omeir, an orphaned seamstress and a cursed boy, on opposite sides of the formidable city walls during the 1453 siege of Constantinople;

teenage idealist Seymour and octogenarian Zeno in an attack on a public library in present-day Idaho;

and Konstance, decades from now, who turns to the oldest stories to guide her community in peril.

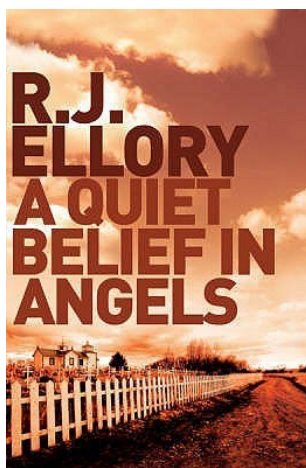
### *All That I Forgot : a memoir* / Anne Howell Non Fiction 2022



What if you woke up in hospital one day thinking you were a girl aged nine, when instead you were a grown woman with a child? What if you could not remember giving birth to that child, did not know who your supposed husband was, or even remember how to read and write? And what if the people helping you remember were not, in fact, telling you the whole story? In 1991, after neurosurgery, Anne Howell caught meningitis and fell into a coma. She woke with amnesia, losing her autobiographical memories, including the birth and, indeed, the existence, of her young daughter. She was told she had a husband, a happy home life, and a loving relationship with her mother, but none of these things turned out to be true.

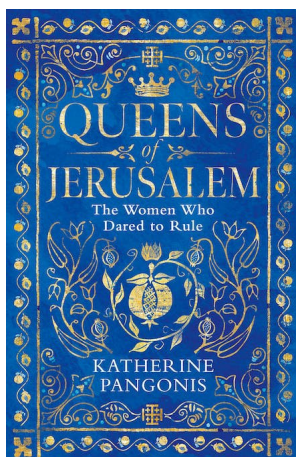
As Anne gradually recovered, she began to suspect the things her family and friends were telling her about herself were convenient fabrications, especially as returning memories revealed a darker version of her past. Against this backdrop of unease and intrigue, Anne is forced not only to confront her new physical limitations but to try and work out who she really is.

### *A Quiet Belief in Angels* / R.J. Ellory Fiction 2007



Joseph Vaughan's life has been dogged by tragedy. Growing up in the 1950s, he was at the centre of series of killings of young girls in his small rural community. The girls were taken, assaulted and left horribly mutilated. Barely a teenager himself, Joseph becomes determined to try to protect his community and classmates from the predations of the killer. Despite banding together with his friends as 'The Guardians', he was powerless to prevent more murders - and no one was ever caught. Only after a full ten years did the nightmare end when the one of his neighbours is found hanging from a rope, with articles from the dead girls around him. Thankfully, the killings finally ceased. But the past won't stay buried - for it seems that the real murderer still lives and is killing again. And the secret of his identity lies in Joseph's own history...

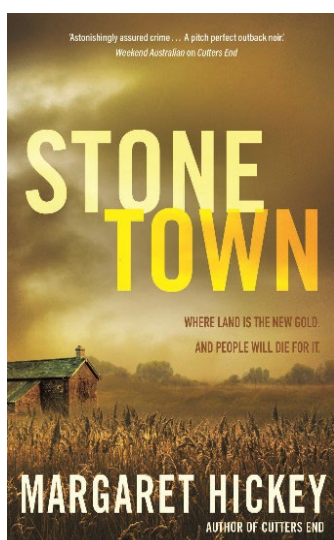
***Queens of Jerusalem: the women who dared to rule* / Katherine Pangonis    Non Fiction    2021**



For all the many books written about the Crusades, one aspect is conspicuously absent: the stories of women. Queens and princesses tend to be presented as passive transmitters of land and royal blood. In reality, women ruled, conducted diplomatic negotiations, made military decisions, forged alliances, rebelled, and undertook architectural projects. Sibylla's grandmother Queen Melisende was the first queen to seize real political agency in Jerusalem and rule in her own right. She outmanoeuvred both her husband and son to seize real power in her kingdom, and was a force to be reckoned with in the politics of the medieval Middle East. The lives of her Armenian mother, her three sisters, and their daughters and granddaughters were no less intriguing. The lives of this trailblazing dynasty of royal women, and the crusading

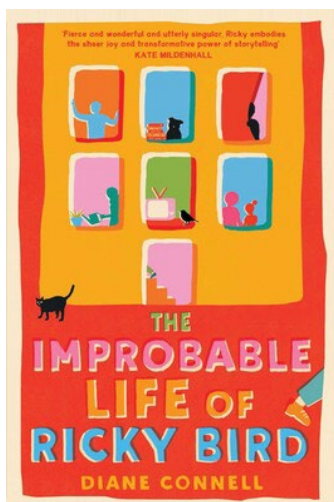
Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, are the focus of Katherine Pangonis's debut book. In *Queens of Jerusalem* she explores the role women played in the governing of the Middle East during periods of intense instability, and how they persevered to rule and seize greater power for themselves when the opportunity presented itself.

***Stone Town* / Margaret Hickey    Fiction    2022**



Gold rush history long in the past, Stone Town has definitely seen better days. And it's now in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. When three teenagers stumble upon a body in dense bushland one rainy Friday night, Senior Sergeant Mark Ariti's hopes for a quiet posting in his old home town are shattered. The victim is Aidan Sleeth, a local property developer, whose controversial plans to buy up Stone Town land means few are surprised he ended up dead. However his gruesome murder is overshadowed by the mystery consuming the entire nation: the disappearance of Natalie Whitsted. Detective Sergeant Whitsted had been investigating the celebrity wife of crime boss Tony 'The Hook' Scopelliti when she vanished. What did she uncover? Has it cost her her life? And why are the two Homicide detectives, sent from the city to run the Sleeth case, so obsessed with Natalie's fate? But following a late-night call from his former boss, Mark is sure of one thing: he's now in the middle of a deadly game.

***The Improbable Life of Ricky Bird* / Diane Connell    Fiction    2022**



Ricky Bird loves making up stories for her little brother Ollie almost as much as she loves him. The imaginary worlds she creates are wild and whimsical places full of unlimited possibilities. Real life is another story. Ricky's father has abandoned them and the family has moved to a bleak new neighbourhood. Worse still, her mother's new boyfriend, Dan, has come with the furniture.

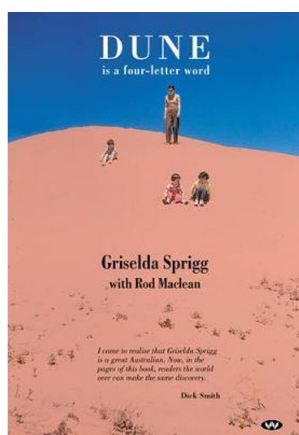
But Ricky Bird is a force to be reckoned with. As the mastermind of so many outlandish adventures, imagination is her best weapon. As her father used to say, if you can spin a good yarn you can get on in life. The trouble is that in the best stories characters sometimes take on a life of their own and no one, not even Ricky, is able to imagine the consequences.

***The Ship's Midwife* / Peta Miller    Fiction    2023**



1850. Sarah Hallow is orphaned, penniless and alone, with only the skills learned from her midwife mother to guide her. Passage on a ship bound for the new settlement of Brisbane, Australia, is her last option. Though her skills are quickly dismissed by the ship's doctor, Sarah is pleased to find instant friendship with her cabin mate, Bridie, a fiery Irish girl with a sharp tongue and midwifery skills of her own. When the two women come to the aid of a labouring woman onboard, Sarah's dreams of opening her own midwifery practice in Brisbane don't seem so impossible. Certainly not as impossible as her daydreams about the ship doctor's son, who only seems to have eyes for her friend. But something else is lurking on the ship: a disease that has the power to take down even the strongest man and is about to rip through the ship like wildfire, leaving only devastation in its path. As caring for patients stretch Sarah and Bridie to their absolute limit, thoughts of the future are rapidly eclipsed by their determination to survive. If only they can make it to Australia with their lives and loves intact ... Inspired by true events, this is a meticulously researched, eye-opening, heart-breaking, soul-warming story of survival, love and grit.

***Dune is a Four Letter Word* / Griselda Sprigg    Non Fiction    2015**

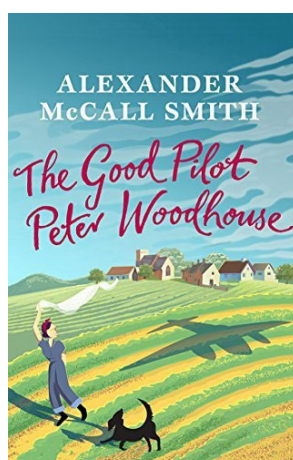


Griselda Sprigg, her husband, Reg, and children, Marg and Doug, were attempting the first motorised crossing of the Simpson Desert. Steep, slippery sand dunes stretched behind and before them forever. "Dune is a four-letter word," muttered Griselda, "and so is bloody spinifex!" Sweat-soaked and filthy, her tender Scottish skin punctured by spikes, Griselda battled on, becoming the first white woman to cross the awesome Simpson and discovering the all-enveloping happiness the desert offers to people prepared to take it on its own terms.

*Dune is a Four-letter Word* tells the story of Griselda and Reg Sprigg's pioneering desert adventures - not only in the Simpson Desert but all over the vast Australian outback. Griselda's story is also the story of Arkaroola

Sanctuary, how she, with her husband, Reg, turned a drought-stricken sheep station into the magnificent flora and fauna reserve and tourist mecca it is today.

***The Good Pilot Peter Woodhouse* / Alexander McCall Smith    Fiction    2017**

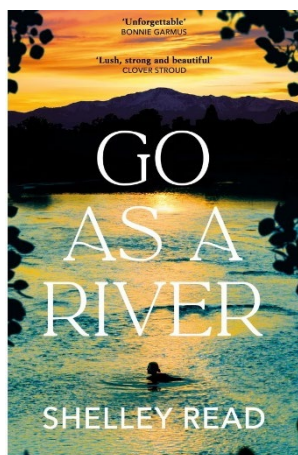


Val was working as a land girl when the Americans arrived at the nearby airfield in 1944. Mike, a young American airman, came into her life soon after, and so too did Peter Woodhouse, a dog badly treated on a neighbouring farm and taken in by her aunt. Little persuasion was needed for Mike to take Peter Woodhouse to the airbase and over time he became the mascot of the American squad, flying with them whenever their Mosquitoes took to the skies. When their plane is shot down over Holland both Mike and his canine companion are feared lost. But unknown to their loved ones at home, Mike and Peter Woodhouse survived the crash. Taken in by the Dutch resistance and with the help of Ubi, a German officer, the pair to remain in hiding till the end of the war when they are reunited with Val. We then follow Val, Mike and Peter

Woodhouse as they rebuild a life in England. And Ubi as he returns to Germany at the end of the war and tries to build a new life for himself. His dream is to run a Wall of Death, a circus ring that pits motorcyclists against gravity as they attempt to stay upright at ever increasing speed...



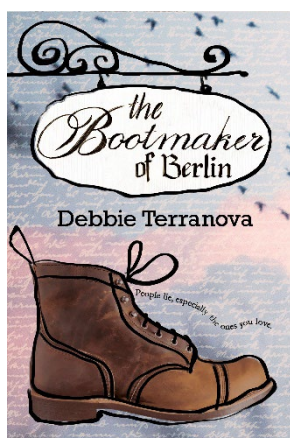
### **Go As A River / Shelley Read Fiction 2023**



Seventeen-year-old Victoria Nash runs the household on her family's peach farm in the small ranch town of Lola, Colorado - the sole surviving female in a family of troubled men. Wilson Moon is a young drifter with a mysterious past, displaced from his tribal land and determined to live as he chooses. Victoria encounters Wil by chance on a street corner, a meeting that profoundly alters both of their young lives, unknowingly igniting as much passion as danger. When tragedy strikes, Victoria leaves the only life she has ever known. She flees into the surrounding mountains where she struggles to survive in the wilderness with no clear notion of what her future will bring. As the seasons change, she also charts the changes in herself, finding in the beautiful but harsh landscape the meaning and strength to move forward and rebuild all that she has

lost, even as the Gunnison River threatens to submerge her homeland - its ranches, farms, and the beloved peach orchard that has been in her family for generations. Inspired by true events surrounding the destruction of the town of Lola in the 1960s, *Go as a River* is a story of deeply held love in the face of hardship and loss, but also of finding courage, resilience, friendship, and, finally, home, where least expected. This stunning debut explores what it means to lead your life as if it were a river - gathering and flowing, finding a way forward even when a river is dammed.

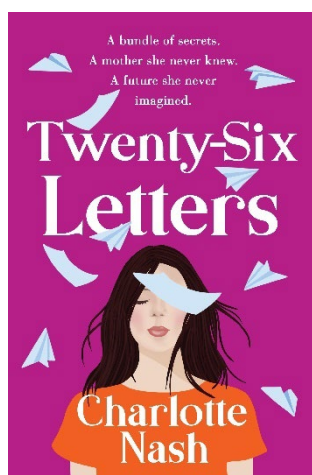
### **The Bootmaker of Berlin / Debbie Terranova Fiction 2023**



Berlin, 2010: A deathbed promise launches Kathy Giuliano on a quest for the truth about her family during World War II. Alone, she travels to Berlin in search of an enigmatic octogenarian who holds the keys to the past. The only clues to his whereabouts are a now-defunct address in Reinickendorf and a black-and-white snapshot. England, 1938: After fleeing Nazi Germany for the safety of England, a teenage boy is captured when Churchill gives the order to 'collar the lot'. One of 2,000 prisoners on the hell-ship *Dunera*, he is transported to Australia. At the 'family camp', he makes footwear and develops life-long friendships. After eight years absence, what does he find on his return to Berlin? Victoria, 1943: With the Japanese at Australia's doorstep, a mother and daughter are arrested at their cane farm in far north Queensland and sent 'down south'. Their crime? Teaching the Italian

language to school-children. The internment camp at Tatura changes everything. The secrets they share must be kept for the rest of their lives.

### **Twenty-Six Letters Charlotte Nash Fiction 2023**



On the eve of her thirtieth birthday, Wilhelmina Mann is already dealing with more than enough problems, so a birthday misadventure landing her in the lock-up is hardly even a surprise. But that mistake leads to Wil receiving a packet of old letters; letters to Wil from her mother that were written just before she died, back when Wil was a small child. Suddenly, Wil's life is thrown into a new kind of turmoil as she discovers the mother she lost. And while the letters begin as tales of growing up, they soon become a great love story, almost as great as the bond between mother and daughter. Caught in old, unexpected emotions and unresolved hurts, Wil risks everything to journey back to the tiny English village in which her mother grew up, searching for answers in another set of letters she is meant to find there. But secrets are kept for a reason. Will she find the last letters? And will she want to know what they contain?