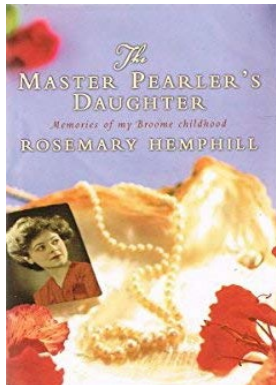


RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER READERS

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

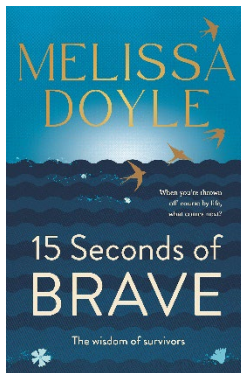
***The Master Pearler's Daughter* / Rosemary Hemphill Non Fiction 2004**



A rare view of a place that has changed and a time that will never be repeated - Broome in the 1920s and 30s - told by Rosemary Hemphill, whose father owned one of the largest fleets of pearling luggers in the state and whose mother longed for the genteel life she had left behind in England.

Now in her eighties, Rosemary writes about the arid, red frontier town that was filled with characters, stories and brilliant colours. Told with passion and gentle humour, *The Master Pearler's Daughter* is a delightful and fascinating look at a world that has long gone.

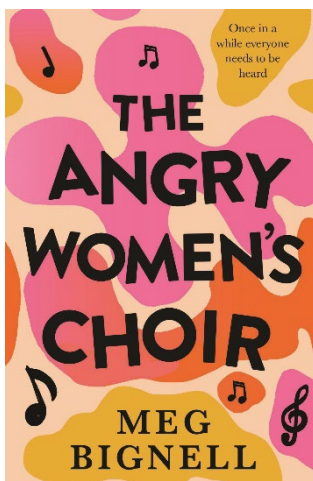
***15 Seconds of Brave : the wisdom of survivors* / Melissa Doyle Non Fiction 2022**



In your darkest hour, can you still find hope? In this intimate and insightful book, Melissa Doyle shares the stories of some of the most resilient people she has ever met, gently drawing out their wisdom, empathy and heartfelt practical advice for anyone who's going through a difficult time. When the world stopped turning in 2020, award-winning journalist Melissa Doyle had already been thrown off course by life. She'd just turned fifty, her eldest child had left home to study overseas and her twenty-five-year-long career as a popular presenter at Channel 7 had come to an end. While lockdowns and closed borders damaged livelihoods, relationships and the nation's mental health, Melissa found herself reflecting on some of the survivors she'd met

during her years reporting from the front lines of triumph and tragedy. Surely these people had clues on how to navigate grief and anxiety? Revisiting these stories with such extraordinary people, Melissa was struck once more by their hard-won wisdom and their ability not just to survive but to find meaning in their experiences. Having faced the worst that life could throw at them, from childhood trauma to a freak accident to betrayal of the cruellest kind, they now explain how hope can prevail and we can all, as one remarkable little boy put it, find our 'fifteen seconds of brave'.

***The Angry Women's Choir* / Meg Bignell Fiction 2022**



"Once in a while, everyone needs to be heard"--Cover.

Freycinet Barnes has built herself the perfect existence. With beautiful children, a successful husband and a well-ordered schedule, it's a life so full she simply doesn't fit. When she steps outside her calendar and is accidentally thrown into the generous bosom of the West Moonah Women's Choir, she finds music, laughter, friendship and a humming wellspring of rage. With the ready acceptance of the colourful choristers, Frey learns that voices can move mountains, fury can be kind and life can do with a bit of ruining. Together, Frey and the choir sing their anger, they breathe it in and stitch it up, belt it out and spin it into a fierce, driving beat that will kick the system square in the balls, and possibly demolish them all.

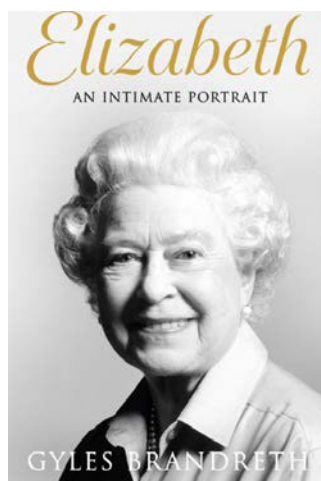
The Good Sister / Sally Hepworth Fiction 2021



From the outside, everyone might think Rose and Fern are as close a twin sisters can be: Rose is the responsible one, with a fierce desire to become a mother. Fern is the librarian who avoids social interaction and whom the world might just describe as truly odd. But the sisters are devoted to one another and Rose has always been Fern's protector from the time they were small. Fern needed protecting because their mother was a sociopath who hid her true nature from the world, and only Rose could see it. What Rose doesn't realize is that Fern is growing more and more aware of the secrets Rose is keeping, and that their mother might have the last word after all.

'There's only been one time that Rose couldn't stop me from doing the wrong thing and that was a mistake that will haunt me for the rest of my life.' Fern Castle works in her local library. She has dinner with her twin sister, Rose, three nights a week. And she avoids crowds, bright lights and loud noises as much as possible. When Rose discovers that she cannot get pregnant, Fern sees her chance to pay her sister back for everything Rose has done for her. Fern can have a baby for Rose. She just needs to find a father. Simple. Fern's mission will shake the foundations of the life she has carefully built for herself and stir up dark secrets from the past, in this quirky, rich and shocking story of what families keep hidden.

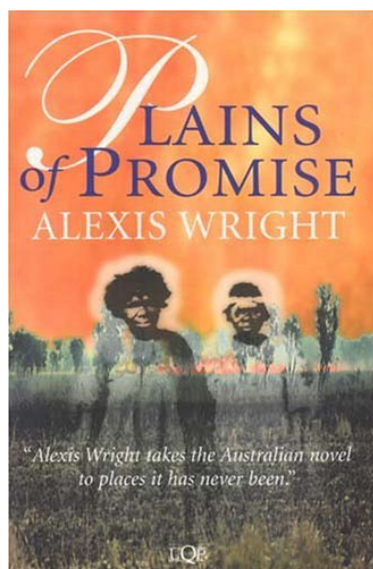
Elizabeth : an intimate portrait / Gyles Brandreth Non Fiction 2022



This intimate, personal biography of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II tells the story of her remarkable life, reign and times, from a perspective unlike any other. Gyles Brandreth will write the Queen's tale candidly with grace and sensitivity from the view of someone so close to her, her husband Philip and the wider Royal family.

Told with a refreshing dose of humour and moving honesty from a totally unique viewpoint, *Elizabeth: An Intimate Portrait* is the must-read biography of the longest-serving monarch in English history, of a woman who has represented not only her people but stood as an emblem of fortitude and resilience worldwide, throughout her long life.

Plains of Promise / Alexis Wright Non Fiction 1997

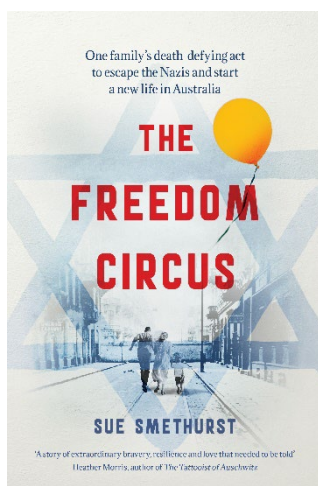


In this brilliant, wide-ranging novel, Alexis Wright evokes city and outback, deepening our understanding of human ambition and failure, and making the timeless heart and soul of this country pulsate on the page.

In the 1950s Gulf Country of Queensland's far North, black and white cultures collide in a thousand ways as Aboriginal spirituality clashes with the complex brutality of colonisation at St Dominic's Mission. When Ivy Koopundi and her mother arrive at the Mission, they are immediately separated and Ivy's life changes irrevocably.

Years later, Mary, a young woman who is working for a city-based Aboriginal Coalition, visits the old Mission and learns of her mother's and grandmother's suffering there. Mary's return reignites community anxieties, leading the Council of Elders to again turn to their spirit world.

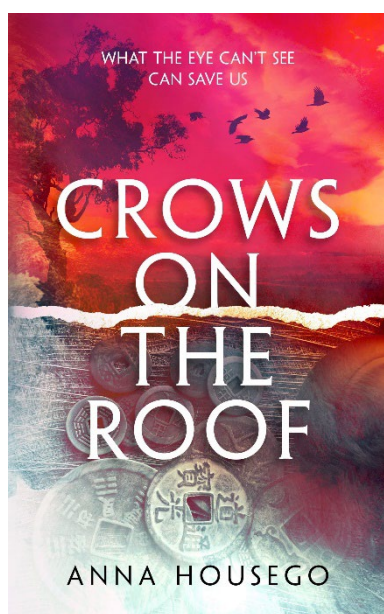
The Freedom Circus / Sue Smethurst Non Fiction 2020



When Sue Smethurst first sat down with her grandmother-in-law and asked how she survived the Holocaust, she was shooed away. By that time Mindla was in a Melbourne Jewish nursing home with other survivors, her body ageing but mind still razor sharp. 'Why do you want to know?' she'd ask. 'My story is nothing special.' As death began approaching Sue became a little more pushy. She knew Mindla's life had to be recorded and they were running out of time. Each week she'd bring cake from her favourite shop in St Kilda, a bottle of the brightest nail polish she could find, a handful of old pictures and her tape recorder. They'd chat and paint Mindla's nails, and with each 'chat' her story unfolded. It was beyond anything Sue could have imagined.

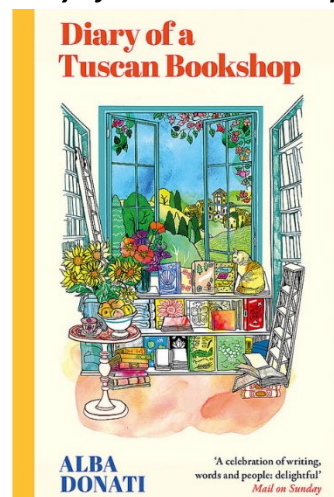
The tale of how Mindla and her husband Michael Horowitz, a circus performer for the famous Staniewski Brothers, escaped from Poland with their young son and embarked on a terrifying journey through the USSR and Middle East to Africa and ultimately to safety in Australia, is nothing short of extraordinary.

Crows on the Roof / Anna Housego Fiction 2022



It's 1980 and in Australia's hottest town, on the far north coast of the continent, everyone's running from something. Bec has just rolled in, chased by a ghost and maybe more, abandoning a life in pieces and a promising career as a journalist. Driving the dusty street, she sees an elderly Chinese woman seated on a verandah, watching on. Lily turned up decades ago, leaving her own broken world behind. She understands the wildness of this place and the power of greater forces, the kind you can't see that run deep, shaping fate. As the two women are inextricably drawn to each other, they begin to confront what's been left behind. Lily must reach back to the early 1900s, across life as an outsider in a country that shunned her people. Bec's reckoning is much closer, though she doesn't know it yet. There's a lot at stake in the unlikely bond that grows between them. Lily might finally get free from the tragedies of her past, while Bec might gain the strength to save herself. They'll need to do it soon. Time is running out for them both.

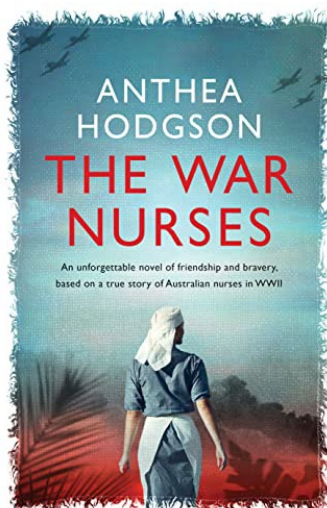
Diary of a Tuscan Bookshop / Alba Donati Non Fiction 2022



Alba used to live a hectic life, working as a book publicist in Florence - a life that made her happy but also left her feeling like a woman constantly on the run. So one day she decides go back to the small village in the Tuscan hills where she was born and open a tiny bookshop.

Alba's enterprise seems doomed from day one, but it surprisingly sparks the enthusiasm of many across Tuscany - and beyond. And after surviving a fire and the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the 'Bookshop on the Hill' soon becomes a refuge and beacon for an ever-growing community of readers.

The War Nurses / Anthea Hodgson Fiction 2023

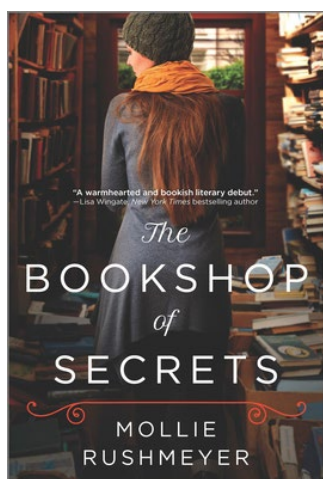


In 1941, country girls Minnie Hodgson and Margot McNee set sail from Perth, Australia, for Singapore in search of adventure, full of excitement and keen to do their part working as nurses to the fallen soldiers in a time of war. What they encounter is an army of new friends and the terrors of a city under siege.

When the Japanese attack and Singapore falls, they are forced to flee aboard the *Vyner Brooke*. The ship is bombed, resulting in utter devastation. Separated in the mayhem, one group of nurses find themselves in prisoner-of-war camps for the duration of the war, surviving on their wits, with humour, dignity, loyalty and determination. But another group of young Australian nurses, the girls on the beach, are washed ashore on Bangka Island, where they will meet a fate that must never be forgotten.

Inspired by the author's own family story, this is an unforgettable novel of enduring friendship and boundless courage, based on the shocking true events of the Bangka Island Massacre. It is a riveting tale and an important tribute to our brave nurses who sacrificed so much during World War II.

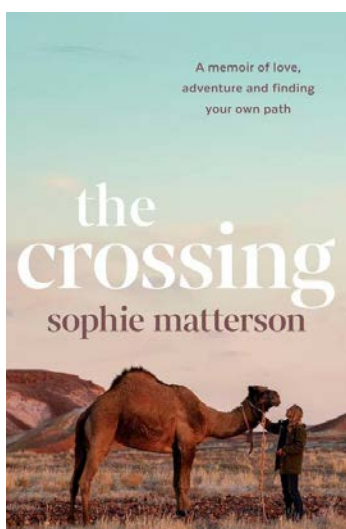
Bookshop of Secrets / Mollie Rushmeyer Fiction 2023



Hope Sparrow has mastered the art of outrunning her tragic past, learning never to stay anywhere too long. Coming to Wanishin Falls in search of her family's history already feels too risky. But somewhere in the towering stacks of this dusty old bookshop are the books that hold Hope's last ties to her late mother and to a rumoured family treasure that could help her start over.

To find the last links to the loved ones she's lost, Hope must stay and accept help from the townsfolk to locate the treasured volumes. But the longer she stays in the quaint town, the more people find their way into the cracks in her heart. And letting them in may be the greatest risk of all.

The Crossing / Sophie Matterson Non Fiction 2023



In 2020, at the age of thirty-one, Sophie Matterson set out to walk her five camels from Shark Bay in Western Australia to Byron Bay on the east coast.

At a time when most of her friends were getting engaged or starting families, Sophie longed for adventure, independence and purpose. She broke up with her long-term boyfriend, packed all her belongings into saddlebags and trained her wild camels to follow her lead. Her thirteen-month solo crossing was the ultimate test of resilience and self-sufficiency - with each state in various forms of lockdowns, Sophie would often walk for weeks without seeing another soul.

She crossed harsh, remote deserts, navigated treacherously beautiful salt lakes, and visited country towns and isolated cattle stations. Along the way she survived life-and-death situations, fell in love in the middle of the Outback, and slowly began to trust herself and her own abilities.