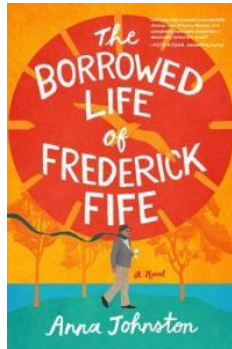


The borrowed life of Frederick Fife

Anna Johnston

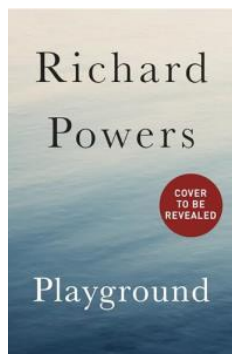
"Would you mind terribly, old boy, if I borrowed the rest of your life? I promise I'll take excellent care of it." Frederick Fife was born with an extra helping of kindness in his heart. If he borrowed your car, he'd return it washed with a full tank of gas. The problem is there's nobody left in Fred's life to borrow from. At eighty-two, he's desperately lonely, broke, and on the brink of homelessness. Fred's luck changes when, in a bizarre case of mistaken identity, he takes the place of Bernard Greer at the local nursing home. Now he has a roof over his head, three meals a day, and, most importantly, the chance to be part of a family again. All he has to do is hope that his poker face is in better shape than his prostate and that his look-alike never turns up.



Playground

Richard Powers

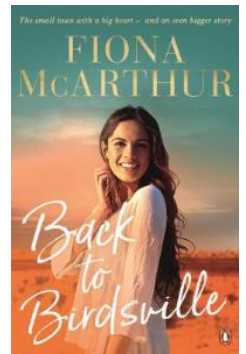
Evie Beaulieu sinks to the bottom of a swimming pool in Montreal strapped to one of the world's first aqualungs. Ina Aroita grows up on naval bases across the Pacific with art as her only home. Two polar opposites at an elite Chicago high school bond over a three-thousand-year-old board game; Rafi Young will get lost in literature, while Todd Keane's work will lead to a startling AI breakthrough. They meet on the history-scarred island of Makatea in French Polynesia, whose deposits of phosphorus once helped to feed the world. Now the tiny atoll has been chosen for humanity's next adventure: a plan to send floating, autonomous cities out onto the open sea. But first, the island's residents must vote to greenlight the project or turn the seastealers away.



Back to Birdsville

Fiona McArthur

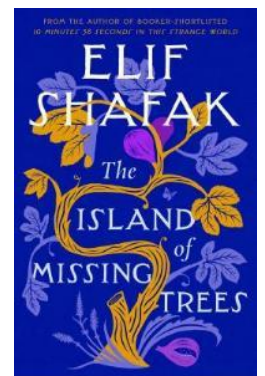
When midwife and emergency nurse Phoebe McFadden fled her family dramas at age sixteen, she thought she'd left Birdsville for good. But when her cousin Scarlet asks her to be bridesmaid in her wedding party, Phoebe knows it's time to make her way home... and face the past. As Phoebe settles back into town, she keeps crossing paths with Atticus Bow, the latest Birdsville cop - no longer the skinny kid she remembers but an irresistible man she does not want to be attracted to. The last thing she needs is to become attached to this place again, but as she starts to let Birdsville - and its people - back into her heart, she discovers secrets that have remained locked away for far too long. Can she right the wrongs of the past before Scarlet's special day?



The island of missing trees

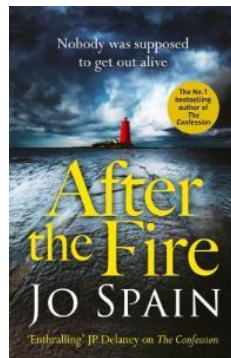
Elif Shafak

It is 1974 on the island of Cyprus. Two teenagers, from opposite sides of a divided land, meet at a tavern in the city they both call home. The tavern is the only place that Kostas, who is Greek and Christian, and Defne, who is Turkish and Muslim, can meet, in secret, hidden beneath the blackened beams from which hang garlands of garlic, chilli peppers and wild herbs. This is where one can find the best food in town, the best music, the best wine. But there is something else to the place: it makes one forget, even if for just a few hours, the world outside and its immoderate sorrows. In the centre of the tavern, growing through a cavity in the roof, is a fig tree. This tree will witness their hushed, happy meetings, their silent, surreptitious departures; and the tree will be there when the war breaks out, when the capital is reduced to rubble, when the teenagers vanish and break apart.



After the fire Jo Spain

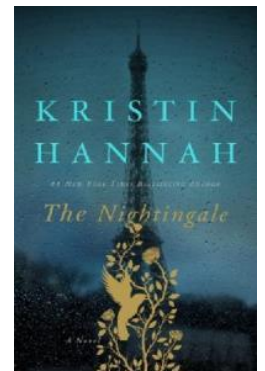
On a crowded Dublin city street, a young woman appears, naked, traumatised and bearing burn marks. Tom Reynolds, now Chief Superintendent, is no longer head of the murder squad. But when it transpires the woman escaped from a house fire started deliberately and that there are more victims, Tom is sucked in. What begins as a straightforward case of arson soon becomes something much more sinister. The people in that house never wanted to be there in the first place. Now more are missing. As Tom tries to locate the others, a terrifying spider's web of domestic and international crime unfolds. And not everybody will survive the fallout.



Germans invade Paris and the young nurse is soon pressured by the leader of the local resistance cell to work for the fledgling movement. Marisa's life becomes increasingly precarious with the arrival of a new Gestapo chief who sets out to seduce her, and the hunt for a traitor in the organisation that throws her into the resistance firing line. As the war approaches its climax, Marisa's Gestapo lover flees, and the young nurse follows. He is ultimately revealed as a key operator in a resistance escape line that traverses four countries. But he has a secret which threatens to crush him. Marisa finally discovers the truth behind the man who risked his life to save others in a masterpiece of deception.

The nightingale Kristin Hannah

Viann and Isabelle have always been close despite their differences. Younger, bolder sister Isabelle lives in Paris while Viann lives a quiet and content life in the French countryside with her husband Antoine and their daughter. When World War II strikes and Antoine is sent off to fight, Viann and Isabelle's father sends Isabelle to help her older sister cope. As the war progresses, it's not only the sisters' relationship that is tested, but also their strength and their individual senses of right and wrong.



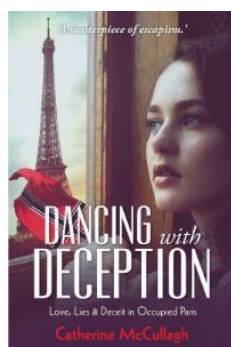
Whistling past the graveyard Susan Crandell

Determined to get to Nashville to find her mother in 1963, nine-year-old spitfire Starla Claudelle runs away from her strict grandmother's Mississippi home, eventually accepting a ride from a Eula, a black woman traveling alone with a white baby.



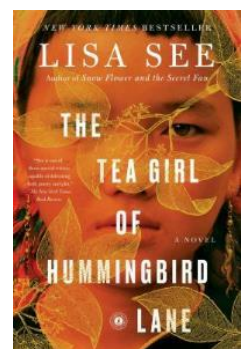
Dancing with Deception Catherine McCullagh

Marisa Carnarvon is an enigma to her family. In 1938 she turns her back on her privileged Sydney lifestyle to become a nurse in a London hospital. With conflict looming, she moves to a Red Cross hospital in Paris, totally unprepared for the forces the approaching maelstrom will unleash. In June 1940 the



The tea girl of Hummingbird Lane Lisa See

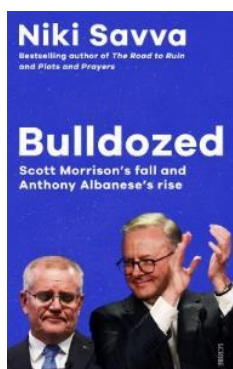
The story of a Chinese mother and her daughter, who has been adopted by an American couple, tracing the very different cultural factors that compel them to consume a rare native tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generation.



Scott Morrison's fall and Anthony Albanese's rise

Niki Savva | 324.294 SAVV

For nine long years, Australia was governed by a succession of Coalition governments rocked by instability and bloodletting and consumed with prosecuting climate and culture wars while neglecting policy. By the end, among his detractors - and there were plenty - Morrison was seen as the worst prime minister since Billy McMahon. Worse even than Tony Abbott, who lasted a scant two years in the job, whose main legacy was that he destroyed Julia Gillard, then himself, and then Turnbull. Morrison failed to accept the mantle of national leadership, or to deal adequately with the challenges of natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. He thought reform was a vanity project. He said he never wanted to leave a legacy.



Around the kitchen table

Sophie Hansen and Annie Herron
641.564 HANS

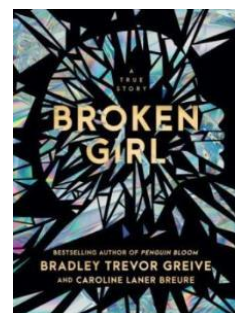
Around The Kitchen Table is an invitation to pause our busy lives - even for half an hour - and cook, create or make something good every day. Written by food writer Sophie Hansen and her mum, art teacher Annie Herron, it celebrates the joy and sense of satisfaction that comes with preparing a simple meal to share, pencilling a sketch or making a jar of jam to give as a gift. Organised into seasons, each chapter is packed with inspiration and encouragement, including bright spring lunches and easy preserves, how to start and finish a watercolour painting at the beach (or anywhere!), generous picnics for summer days, the joy of Christmas baking and craft, cosy suppers, autumn sketching adventures and slow cooking and drawing games for cold winter afternoons.



Broken Girl

Bradley Trevor Grieve and Caroline Laner Breure | 920.72 BREU

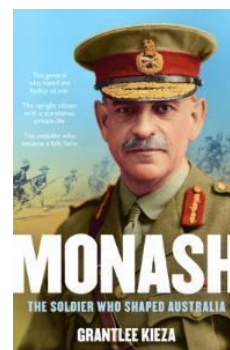
Sometimes the whole truth is the death of everything. Caroline Laner Breure was on holiday in Spain with her boyfriend when her skull was crushed. A year later, following starless months in a coma and painful rehabilitation, Caroline returned to her beachside apartment in Sydney, only to find that her home was not her home, her lover was not her lover, and her friends were not her friends. Everyone and everything she'd loved had vanished. Physically broken and no longer able to trust her own mind, she painstakingly searched for clues to explain the cruel disparity between her past and present. This is the true story of how Caroline solved her own mystery and reclaimed her life. A jagged and luminous survivor's account and a defiant celebration of imperfection, Broken Girl is a powerful and poetic work of staggering loss and betrayal, fierce beauty, dark humour, love and rage.



Monash

Grantlee Kieza | 940.48 KIEZ

Author Grantlee Kieza tracks Monash's beginnings as the bright son of immigrant rabbis through his years of searching for an identity and his tumultuous love life as a ladies' man in Melbourne society before he became one of the city's wealthiest and most successful citizens. Then, in the frightening blood-soaked fields of World War



I, he shows how a man who had never fired a shot in anger grew to become one of the most admired generals Australia has ever produced - while harbouring private thoughts about the futility of war. Writing with pace, style and eye for lively detail, Grantlee Kieza brings Monash brilliantly to life.

Australian Gospel

Lech Blaine | 920.71 BLAI

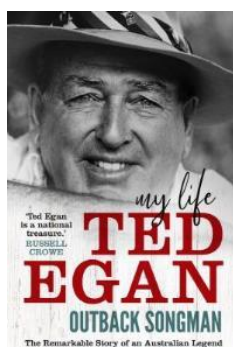
Michael and Mary Shelley are Christian fanatics who loathe their fellow Australians - especially their 'reckless indulgence of alcohol and obsession with idiotic ball sports'. Lenore and Tom Blaine are working-class Queensland publicans raising a large family in a raucous, loving, sports-obsessed home. There's just one problem. Lenore and Tom are foster parents to three of Michael and Mary's children, who were removed from the Shelleys as infants. And the Shelleys are prepared to do anything to get them back. Anything. *Australian Gospel* is the true story of Lech Blaine's family, a stranger-than-fiction tale that is heartbreaking, hilarious and altogether astonishing.



Outback songman: My Life

Ted Egan | 927.82 EGAN

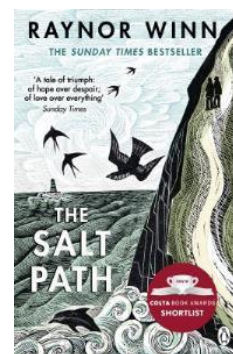
In *Outback Songman*, Ted Egan recounts the story of his rich and extraordinary life. Born to a working-class family in Melbourne's Coburg, he has never had a music lesson. Nonetheless, he has composed some of the first original songs about Australian history and ethos, many of which are now classics. Through his stories of growing up during World War II, teaching in a bush school, working with Aboriginal people in the Gulf Country, and performing in Alice Springs and around the country, Ted Egan brings to life an Australia that has largely disappeared. His encounters offer insights into national politics and everyday life over the past eight decades. His generosity of spirit and his deep understanding of his country shine from every page.



The Salt Path

Raynor Winn | 920.72 WINN

Just days after Raynor Winn learns that Moth, her husband of thirty-two years, is terminally ill, their house and farm are taken away, along with their livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they make the brave and impulsive decision to walk the 630 miles of the sea-swept Southwest Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset, through Devon and Cornwall. Carrying only the essentials for survival on their backs, they live wild in the ancient, weathered landscape of cliffs, sea, and sky. Yet through every step, every encounter, and every test along the way, their walk becomes a remarkable and life-affirming journey. Powerfully written and unflinchingly honest, *The Salt Path* is ultimately a portrayal of home--how it can be lost, rebuilt, and rediscovered in the most unexpected ways.



Barefoot in the bindis: memoir of a bush childhood

Angela Wales | 920.72 WALE

In 1953, after doctors prescribed fresh country air for his health, Scottish-born Robert Wales uprooted his young family from the city life of Sydney and set out to establish a sheep farm in the bush. What he lacked in experience and expertise, he made up for in enthusiasm. Or so he hoped. When the family arrived on a lonely hill in northern New South Wales, they had no electricity, no running water, no telephone and no choice but to make that tangle of bush their home. From Angela Wales, eldest of the five kids, comes this extraordinarily vivid and evocative account of the next ten years as they tried to tame six thousand acres and navigate the challenges of country life.

