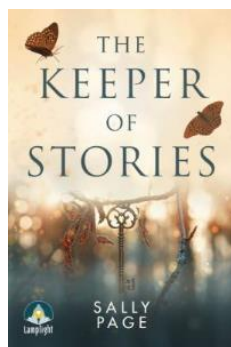


### The keeper of stories

Sally Page | Fiction

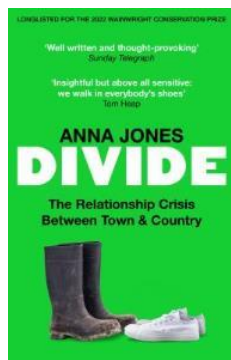
Cleaner Janice knows that it is in people's stories that you really get to know them. From recently widowed Fiona and her son Adam; to opera-singing Geordie; and the awful Mrs 'YeahYeahYeah' and her fox terrier, Decius, Janice has a unique insight into the community around her. When Janice starts cleaning for Mrs B - a shrewd and tricky woman in her nineties - she finally meets someone who wants to hear her story. But Janice is clear: she is the keeper of stories; she doesn't have a story to tell. At least, not one she can share. Mrs B is no fool and knows there is more to Janice than meets the eye. What is she hiding? After all, doesn't everyone have a story to tell?



### Divide: the relationship crisis between town and country

Anna Jones | 307.72 JONE

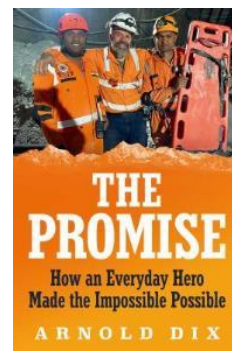
This book is a call to action. It warns that unless we learn to accept and respect our social, cultural, and political differences as town and country people, we are never going to solve the chronic problems in our food system and environment. As we stare down the barrel of climate change, only farmers - who manage two thirds of the UK's landscape - working together with conservation groups can create a healthier food system and bring back nature in diverse abundance. But this fledgling progress is hindered and hamstrung by simplistic debates that still stoke conflict between conservative rural communities and the liberal green movement. Each chapter, from Family and Politics to Animal Welfare and the Environment, explores a different aspect of the urban/rural disconnect, weaving case studies and research with Anna's personal stories of growing up on a small, upland farm.



### The Promise: how an everyday hero made the impossible possible

Arnold Dix | Non Fiction 363.348 DIX

Arnold Dix became an unlikely hero when he promised to save forty-one men trapped after a tunnel collapse in the Himalayas. What many don't know is that Arnold is also a barrister, scientist, engineer - a 'quirky' Aussie bloke who proves that extraordinary courage can come from the most unexpected places. In vivid detail, Arnold recounts the unlikely rescue that transformed him into a global hero. He reflects on the extraordinary challenges he faced, culminating in his unwavering promise: 'Forty-one men are coming home alive.' But his incredible story goes far beyond this one remarkable event. Arnold's compassion also led him to assist thousands of migrant workers in Qatar, and his journey took him from surviving politically motivated assassination attempts in Albania to working in the tunnels of Ground Zero after 9/11. His story is one of steadfast courage, filled with themes of adventure, sacrifice and selflessness.



### Jitterbug Perfume

Tom Robbins | Fiction

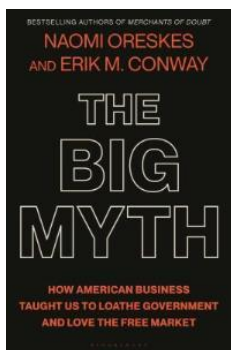
Jitterbug Perfume is an epic, which is to say, it begins in the forests of ancient Bohemia and does not conclude until nine o'clock tonight [Paris time]. It is a saga, as well. A saga must have a hero, and the hero of this one is a janitor with a missing bottle. The bottle is blue, very, very old, and embossed with the image of a goat-horned god. If the liquid in the bottle is actually the secret essence of the universe, as some folks seem to think, it had better be discovered soon because it is leaking and there is only a drop of two left.



### The Big Myth: how American business taught us to loathe government and love the free market

Naomi Oreskes & Erik M Conway  
Non Fiction 330.122 ORES

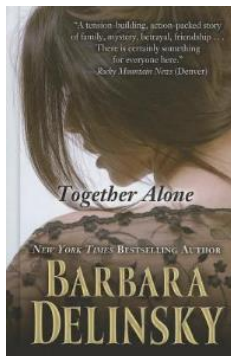
In the early 20th century, trade associations, business elites, powerbrokers, and media allies set out to build a new American orthodoxy: down with "big government" and up with unfettered markets. With startling archival evidence, Oreskes and Conway document campaigns to rewrite textbooks, combat unions, and defend child labour. They detail the ploys that turned hardline economists Friedrich von Hayek and Milton Friedman into household names; recount the libertarian roots of the Little House on the Prairie books; and tune into the General Electric-sponsored TV show that beamed free-market doctrine to millions and launched Ronald Reagan's political career. By the 1970s, this propaganda was succeeding. Free market ideology would define the next half-century across Republican and Democratic administrations, giving us a housing crisis, the opioid scourge, climate destruction, and a baleful response to the Covid-19 pandemic.



### Together Alone

Barbara Delinsky | Fiction

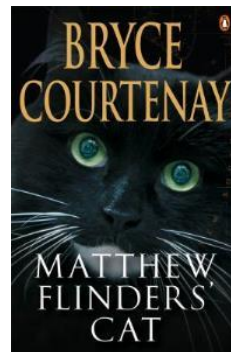
With their daughters off to college, the time has come for best friends Emily, Kay and Celeste to redefine themselves. As they struggle to navigate this uncharted territory, the three friends begin to reassess their dreams, desires, and what it means, to each of them, to be a woman. But before they can bring about change, they must learn the hardest lesson of all: how to love themselves.



### Matthew Flinders' Cat

Bryce Courtenay | Fiction

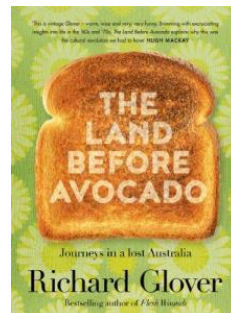
Billy O'Shannessy, once a prominent barrister, is now on the street, where he sleeps on a bench outside the State Library. Above him on the windowsill rests a bronze statue of Matthew Flinders' cat, Trim. Ryan is a ten-year-old, a near-street kid heading for the usual trouble. The two form an unlikely bond. In telling Ryan the story of Flinders' circumnavigation of Australia as seen through Trim's eyes, Billy is drawn deeply into Ryan's life and into the Sydney underworld.



### The Land before Avocado

Richard Glover | Non Fiction 994.06 GLOV

It was simpler time. 'We had more fun back then'. 'Everyone could afford a house'. There's plenty of nostalgia right now for the Australia of the past, but what was it really like? In The Land Before Avocado, Richard Glover takes a journey to an almost unrecognisable Australia. It's a vivid portrait of a quite peculiar land: a place that is scary and weird, dangerous and incomprehensible, and, now and then, surprisingly appealing. It's the Australia of his childhood. The Australia of the late '60s and early '70s. Let's break the news now: they didn't have avocado. It's a place of funny clothing and food that was appalling, but amusingly so. It also the land of staggeringly awful attitudes - often enshrined in law - towards anybody who didn't fit in. The Land Before Avocado will make you laugh and cry, be angry and inspired. And leave you wondering how bizarre things were, not so long ago.

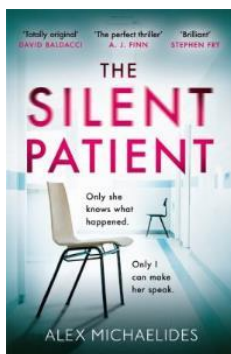




### The silent patient

Alex Michaelides | Fiction

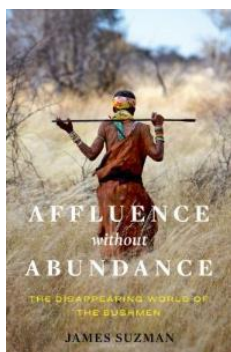
Alicia Berenson writes a diary as a release, an outlet - and to prove to her beloved husband that everything is fine. She can't bear the thought of worrying Gabriel, or causing him pain. Until, late one evening, Alicia shoots Gabriel five times and then never speaks another word. Forensic psychiatrist Theo Faber is convinced he can successfully treat Alicia, where all others have failed. Obsessed with investigating her crime, his discoveries suggest Alicia's silence goes far deeper than he first thought. And if she speaks, would he want to hear the truth? The Silent Patient is a heart-stopping debut thriller about a woman's brutal and random act of violence against her husband - and the man obsessed with discovering why.



### Affluence without abundance : the disappearing world of the bushmen

James Suzman | Non Fiction 968 SUZM

A vibrant portrait of the "original affluent society"--the Bushmen of southern Africa--by the anthropologist who has spent much of the last twenty-five years documenting their encounter with modernity. If the success of a civilization is measured by its endurance over time, then the Bushmen of the Kalahari are by far the most successful in human history. A hunting and gathering people who made a good living by working only as much as needed to exist in harmony with their hostile desert environment, the Bushmen have lived in southern Africa since the evolution of our species nearly two hundred thousand years ago. In Affluence Without Abundance, anthropologist James Suzman vividly brings to life a proud and private people, introducing unforgettable members of their tribe, and telling the story of the collision between the modern global economy and the oldest hunting and gathering society on earth.



### The surgeon of Royaumont

Susan Neuhaus | Fiction

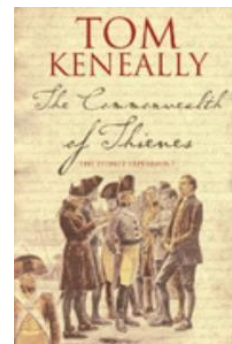
A young Australian woman on the battlefields of World War I finds her calling through her work as a surgeon - and her legacy in compassion. Based on real-life characters and events this thought-provoking novel is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit amidst the ravages of war. As one of only a handful of female medical graduates working at the Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, Clara Heywood refuses to be denied the chance to become a surgeon because of her sex. As her male colleagues, including her unofficial fiancé Edward, head off to war, Clara grapples with a sense of her own unfulfilled purpose. In defiance of her own family and all convention, she leaves for France to work at the Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont Abbey, a hospital managed entirely by women on the Western Front. There, under the tutelage of Miss Frances Ivens, Clara is thrust into the brutal realities of war, the technical intricacies of surgery and the profound ethical and emotional toll it exacts. Surgery tests not only her skills but her values and Clara discovers that her greatest adversaries are not the wounds of war but the internal conflicts that shape her understanding of humanity, and the heavy burden of her own ambition.



### Commonwealth of Thieves: the Sydney experiment

Tom Keneally | Non Fiction 994.02 KENE

Australia is the only modern society to have begun as a dedicated penal settlement. In this vivid and moving recreation of the first four years of The Sydney Experiment, Keneally examines how a motley Thief Colony exiled by England has not only survived but flourished into a sophisticated, modern society.



### The Hope Flower

Joy Dettman | Fiction

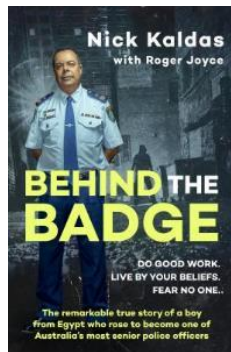
Lori Smyth-Owen isn't your average teenager, as you'd expect from the only girl in a family of twelve. Or they were a family, until their father took his own life to escape his bed-bound wife, too obese to leave her room. But for Lori and the remaining brothers, there is no escape from their volatile, mentally unstable mother. They raise themselves away from the gaze of the authorities, realising that though abandoned, they are now in charge. They can control everything, including their mother's food intake. In time, their mother emerges, after losing two-thirds of her body weight. But does she bring with her the seed of hope for a better future, or will all hell break loose?



### Behind the badge

Nick Kaldas with Roger Joyce  
Non Fiction 923.4 KALD

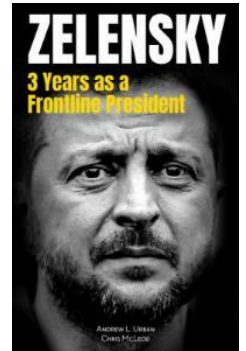
From investigating war criminals to taking down global drug operations, Kaldas has seen the worst humanity can offer. But he's also seen which human qualities can lead to greatness. This is the compelling true story of an immigrant boy from Egypt who rose from beat cop to be one of the most senior police in Australia. During his time in the NSW police force, he was one of Australia's first Arab undercover cops, headed up both the Homicide and Gang Squad units, reformed the Counter Terrorism team and then became the Deputy Police Commissioner. But he has also faced down some of the toughest, most brutal criminal organisations in the world.



### Volodymyr Zelensky: the frontline president

Andrew L Urban and Chris McLeod  
Non Fiction | 923.2 ZELE

A chronicle of Zelensky's glory and Putin's dishonour as the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine enters a third year. Following the release of the 2022 book, Zelensky's - The unlikely Ukrainian hero who defied Putin and united the world



- we have monitored the progress of President Zelensky's defence of Ukraine. In this book, we show his frequent presence on the frontline with his troops, in contrast to Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, cocooned in the Kremlin, disconnected from his troops - and even his commanders. We also examine the wider international and geopolitical context, and speak to the Ukraine's Ambassador in Australia, Vasyl Myroshnychenko and Stefan Romaniw, vice president of the Ukraine world congress and chairman of the Australian federation of Ukrainian organisations. For intelligence analysis we turn to Rebekah Koffler, author of Putin's playbook, and we end the book with Zelensky's own words as he looks to the future.

### James

Percival Everett | Fiction

When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

