

RECOMMENDED READS | NOVEMBER 2024

FIRSTS

FICTION

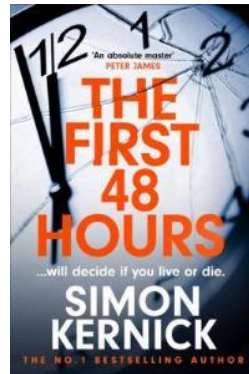
<https://www.grc.qld.gov.au/homepage/108/library-lovers-book-group-online>



The first 48 hours

Simon Kernick
2023

The first 48 hours are critical... and the clock is ticking. A cop needs to crack a deadly case. He's a detective hunting cold-blooded killers, but does he know more than he admits? A mother has to save her daughter. She's a lawyer who must defend a murderer, but how far will she go to protect her only child? A couple will commit the perfect crime. They have a foolproof plan, but will they get away with the money... and their lives? Three stories. Two days. Does one secret connect them all?



First lie wins.

Ashley Elston
2024

Everything she is about to tell them is a lie... Evie Porter has everything a girl could want: a doting boyfriend, a house with a picket fence, a fun group of friends. The only catch: Evie Porter doesn't exist. First comes the identity. Once she's given a name and location by her employer, she learns everything there is to know about the town and the people in it. Then the mark: Ryan Sumner. The last piece of the puzzle is the job. For Evie, this job feels different. Ryan has gotten under her skin, and she's started to picture another kind of life for herself - one where her boss doesn't pull the strings. But Evie can't make any mistakes. Because the one thing she's worked her entire life to keep clean, the one identity she could always go back to - her real identity - just walked right into this town. A woman, who looks just like her, has stolen her name - and she wants more. As Evie's past begins to catch up with her, can she stay one step ahead to save her future?



First strike

Stephen Leather
2024

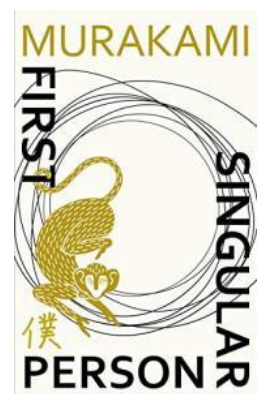
MI5 analyst David White has always tried to be a good father, so when his daughters want to go to a music festival in Israel, he agrees to take them. But his world falls apart when his daughters are killed in the Hamas massacre that left 1,200 innocent civilians dead. White is taken hostage down in the tunnels under Gaza, and Dan 'Spider' Shepherd and a crack SAS team are sent in to rescue him. Safely back in London, White is a changed man. He wants revenge for what happened to his family and sets out to kill the men who planned and financed the Hamas attacks. And as White embarks on a vengeance-driven killing spree, Shepherd is the only man who can stop him.



First person singular

Haruki Murakami
2021

A riveting new collection of short stories from the beloved, internationally acclaimed, Haruki Murakami. The eight masterful stories in this new collection are all told in the first person by a classic Murakami narrator: a lonely man. Some of them (like "With the Beatles," "Cream," and "On a Stone Pillow") are nostalgic looks back at youth. Others are set in adulthood--"Charlie Parker Plays Bossa Nova," "Carnaval," "Confessions of a Shinagawa Monkey" and the stunning title story. Occasionally, a narrator who may or may not be Haruki himself is present, as in "The Yakult Swallows Poetry Collection." Is it memoir or fiction? The reader decides. The stories all touch beautifully on love and loss, childhood and death... all with a signature Murakami twist.



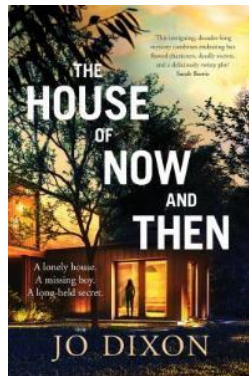
The house of now and then

Jo Dixon

2023

Debut Novel

After a humiliating public scandal, Olivia is hiding from the press in a remote Tasmanian house when an unknown man knocks on her door, seeking Pippa, a woman who once lived there. His father, Jeremy, has died, leaving behind a letter for this mysterious woman. Olivia wants to help, but can she risk revealing her own sordid past?



Thirty years earlier, bohemian wild-child Pippa and her best friend Jeremy spend a perfect summer in the house. Pippa falls deeply in love with local boy Leo, and they begin to plan a life of adventure together, much to the displeasure of his conservative and controlling family. One night Leo leaves the house to confront his parents... and is never seen again. As Olivia is drawn into solving the mystery, the unexpected and tragic story of Pippa, Jeremy and Leo is slowly uncovered. At the same time, a path to reclaiming her own life opens, if only she has the courage to take it.

First day without you

Melissa Hill

2023

Leonie has left behind everything and everyone she loves for a fresh start in California. Desperate to outrun the mess she's come from, she hopes the change of scenery can mend her broken heart and bury her secrets forever. But when she discovers a bundle of unread love letters hidden in the back of a wardrobe in her new apartment, she is intrigued by the mystery behind them...and can't help but notice the similarities between them and her own story. With the help of her new friend Alex, a news reporter toting around baggage of her own, Leonie embarks on a quest down the West Coast to find the ill-fated lovers from the letters and reunite them, whatever it takes. Even if it means confronting the hurt she's buried deep within herself. Because if the couple behind the love letters can find a happy ending, then perhaps she just might too.



Water

John Boyne

2023

First in series

The first thing Vanessa Carvin does when she arrives on the island is change her name. To the locals, she is Willow Hale, a solitary outsider escaping Dublin to live a hermetic existence in a small cottage, not a notorious woman on the run from her past. But scandals follow like hunting dogs. And she has some questions of her own to answer. If her ex-husband is really the monster everyone says he is, then how complicit was she in his crimes? Escaping her old life might seem like a good idea but the choices she has made throughout her marriage have consequences. Here, on the island, Vanessa must reflect on what she did - and did not do. Only then can she discover whether she is worthy of finding peace at all.



First impressions: a novel about old books, young love, and Jane Austen

Charlie Lovett

2014

Lovett weaves another brilliantly imagined mystery, this time featuring one of English literature's most popular and beloved authors, Jane Austen. Book lover and Austen enthusiast Sophie Collingwood has recently taken a job at an antiquarian bookshop in London when two different customers request a copy of the same obscure book: the second edition of *Little Book of Allegories* by Richard Mansfield. Their queries draw Sophie into a mystery that will cast doubt on the true authorship of *Pride and Prejudice* and ultimately threaten Sophie's life. In a dual narrative that alternates between Sophie's quest to uncover the truth while choosing between two suitors and a young Jane Austen's touching friendship with the ageing cleric Richard Mansfield, Lovett weaves a romantic, suspenseful and utterly compelling novel about love in all its forms and the joys of a life lived in books.



RECOMMENDED READS | NOVEMBER 2024

FIRSTS

NON-FICTION



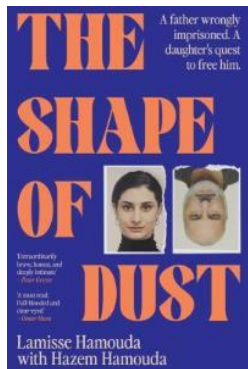
The shape of dust

Lamisse Hamouda

365.44 HAMO 2023

Winner of the National Biography Award 2024

The Shape of Dust is a haunting appraisal of the way Australia treats its citizens, both at home and abroad. In 2018, on his way to a family holiday in Cairo, Australian-Egyptian citizen Hazem Hamouda disappears without warning, going missing somewhere between landing and customs. His eldest daughter, Lamisse, has recently moved to Egypt armed with a scholarship to the American University of Cairo, and overnight her world is turned upside down. With little Arabic and even less legal knowledge, she finds out her father has been arbitrarily arrested. Going up against the notorious Egyptian prison system, Lamisse discovers that the Australian embassy provides shockingly little support to dual citizens arrested abroad.



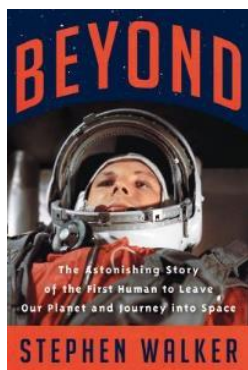
Beyond:

The astonishing story of the first human to leave our planet and journey into space.

Stephen Walker

629.45 WALK 2021

9.07 a.m., April 12, 1961. A top-secret rocket site in the USSR. A young Russian sits inside a tiny capsule on top of the Soviet Union's most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile - originally designed to carry a nuclear warhead - and blasts into the skies. His name is Yuri Gagarin and he is about to make history. Travelling at almost 18,000 miles per hour - ten times faster than a rifle bullet - Gagarin circles the globe in just 106 minutes. While his launch begins in total secrecy, within hours of his landing he has become a world celebrity - the first human to leave the planet. Beyond tells the thrilling story behind that epic flight on its sixtieth anniversary..



By sea & stars

Trent Dalton

2018

994.01 DALT

Dazzling, poetic and vivid storytelling from one of Australia's greatest writers, which tells the bloody, brutal and enthralling story of the epic journey of the First Fleet. Originally published as a multi-part serial in The Australian, By Sea and Stars tells the story of the epic voyage which led to the founding of our nation, as told from the point of view of the people who took part - willingly or unwillingly - in it. Drawing from historical sources of the time, including letters and journals, Trent Dalton, one of Australia's best writers, brings this epic voyage, and the people who went on it, to vivid life. This is not dry history of dates and names. These are gripping stories of real people, from the lowest to the highest.



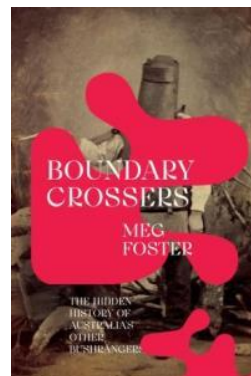
Boundary Crossers:

The hidden history of Australia's other bushrangers

Meg Foster

364.155 FOST 2022

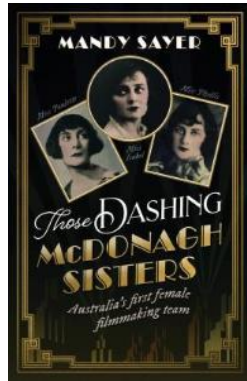
Bushrangers are Australian legends, remembered as folk heroes and celebrated for their bravery and their ridicule of inept and corrupt authorities. But not all Australian bushrangers were seen in this glowing light in their own time. And not all were white men. In Boundary Crossers, historian Meg Foster reveals the stories of bushrangers who didn't fit the mould. African American man Black Douglas, who was seen as the terror of the Victorian goldfields, Sam Poo, known as Australia's only Chinese bushranger, Aboriginal man Jimmy Governor, who was renowned as a mass murderer, and Captain Thunderbolt's partner, Aboriginal woman Mary Ann Bugg, whose extraordinary exploits extended well beyond her time as 'the Captain's Lady'.



Those dashing McDonagh sisters: Australia's first filmmaking team

Mandy Sayer
791.43 SAYE 2022

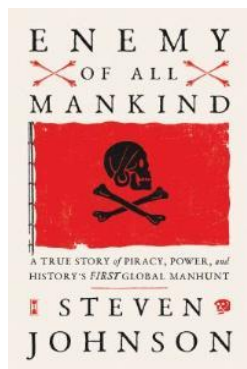
The trailblazing McDonagh sisters were the first women in Australia to form their own film production company. Between 1926 and 1933, while they were in their mid-twenties, these sassy sisters produced four feature films and a number of documentaries. The youngest, Paulette, was one of only five women film directors in the world. Phyllis produced, art directed, and conducted publicity. And the eldest, Isabel, under her stage name Marie Lorraine, acted superbly in all the female leads. Together, the sisters transformed Australian cinema's preoccupations with the outback and the bush - and what they mocked as 'haystack movies' - into a thrilling, urban modernity.



Enemy of all mankind: a true story of piracy, power and history's first global manhunt

Steven Johnson
910.45 JOHN 2020

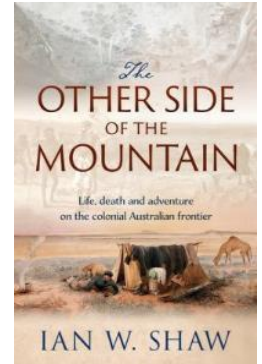
Henry Every was the seventeenth century's most notorious pirate. The press published wildly popular—and wildly inaccurate—reports of his nefarious adventures. The British government offered enormous bounties for his capture, alive or (preferably) dead. But Steven Johnson argues that Every's most lasting legacy was his inadvertent triggering of a major shift in the global economy. *Enemy of All Mankind* focuses on one key event—the attack on an Indian treasure ship by Every and his crew—and its surprising repercussions across time and space. It's the gripping tale of one of the most lucrative crimes in history, the first international manhunt, and the trial of the seventeenth century. Johnson uses the extraordinary story of Henry Every and his crimes to explore the emergence of the East India Company, the British Empire, and the modern global marketplace: a densely interconnected planet ruled by nations and corporations.



The other side of the mountain: how a tycoon, a pastoralist and a convict helped shape the exploration of colonial Australia

Ian Shaw
994.02 SHAW 2020

In the early 1800s the Great Australia Unknown would be slowly revealed, in part by formal government expeditions, but also by runaway convicts, little known and privately funded explorers, and pastoralists seeking both knowledge of what lay beyond and land to occupy. Through extensive research, and with engaging storytelling,



The Other Side of the Mountain brings three of these men's stories together into a single enthralling narrative: Ralph Entwistle, runaway convict and bushranger who led a brief and briefly successful rebellion against the brutality of the convict system on the fringes of New South Wales' western plains; John Horrocks, an English textiles magnate who brought most of his village from the north of England to Adelaide and beyond, and who was the first to explore Australia's parched interior by camel, a decision that cost him his life; and Horace Wills, a printer, rebel, overlander, pastoralist and politician who gave up everything to push the frontier back in

Wild love: the ambitions of Adelaide Ironside, the first Australian artist to astonish the world.

Kiera Lindsey
927.5 IRON 2023

Kiera Lindsey uncovers the life of the talented and exuberant colonial painter Adelaide Ironside, following in her footsteps from the shores of Sydney harbour to the leading artistic circles of Europe. Colonial lasses were expected to marry at 16, but she wanted to be an artist, not a wife, and she had big ambitions. She



wanted to train with the best painters of her day in Europe, to elevate her sex, and to adorn her hometown of Sydney with republican frescos. Adelaide Ironside was the first locally born professional painter in colonial Australia.