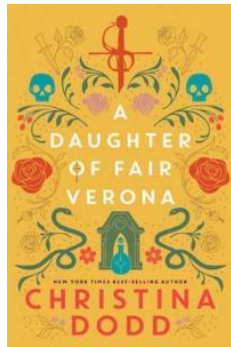


A daughter of Fair Verona

Christina Dodd | Fiction

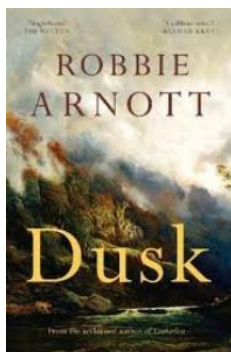
Once upon a time a young couple met and fell in love. You probably know that story, and how it ended (hint: badly). Only here's the thing: That's not how it ended at all. Romeo and Juliet are alive and well and the parents of seven kids. I'm the oldest, with the emphasis on 'old'—a certified spinster at twenty, and happy to stay that way. It's not easy to keep your taste for romance with parents like mine. Picture it—constant monologues, passionate declarations, fighting, making up, making out... it's exhausting. Each time they've presented me with a betrothal, I've set out to find the groom-to-be a more suitable bride. After all, someone sensible needs to stay home and manage this household. But their latest match, Duke Stephano, isn't so easy to palm off on anyone else. The debaucher has had three previous wives—all of whom met unfortunate ends. Conscience forbids me from consigning another woman to that fate. As it turns out, I don't have to... At our betrothal ball—where, quite by accident, I meet a beautiful young man who makes me wonder if perhaps there is something to love at first sight—I stumble upon Duke Stephano with a dagger in his chest. But who killed him?



Dusk

Robbie Arnott | Fiction

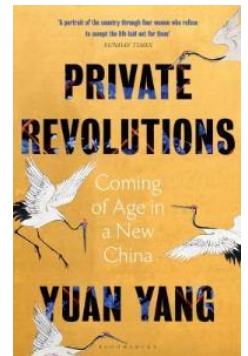
In the distant highlands, a puma named Dusk is killing shepherds. Down in the lowlands, twins Iris and Floyd are out of work, money and friends. When they hear that a bounty has been placed on Dusk, they reluctantly decide to join the hunt. As they journey up into this wild, haunted country, they discover there's far more to the land and people of the highlands than they imagined. And as they close in on their prey, they're forced to reckon with conflicts both ancient and deeply personal.



Private revolutions

Yuan Yang | 305.4 YANG | Non Fiction

This is a book about the coming of age of four women born in China in the 1980s and 1990s, dreaming of better futures. It is about Leiya, who wants to escape the fate of the women in her village. Still underage, she bluffs her way on to the factory floor. It is about June, who at fifteen sets what her family thinks is an impossible goal— to attend university rather than raise pigs. It is about Siyue, ranked second-to-bottom of her English class, who decides to prove her teachers wrong. And it is about Sam, who becomes convinced that the only way to change her country is to become an activist even as the authorities slowly take her peers from the streets. With unprecedented access to the lives, hopes, homes, dreams and diaries of four ordinary women over a period of six years, Private Revolutions gives a voice to those whose stories go untold. At a time of rising state censorship and suppression, it unearths the identity of modern Chinese society and, through the telling, something of our own.

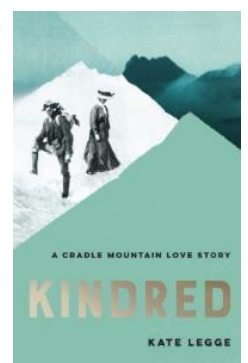


Kindred:

A Cradle Mountain love story

Kate Legge | 923.9 LEGG | Non Fiction

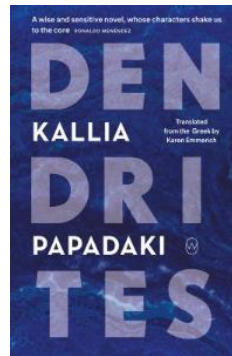
He was an Austrian immigrant; she came from Tasmania. He grew up beside the Carinthian Alps; she climbed mountains when few women dared. Their honeymoon glimpse of Cradle Mountain lit an urge that filled their waking hours. Others might have kept this splendour to themselves, but Gustav Weindorfer and Kate Cowle sensed the significance of a place they sought to share with the world. When they stood on the peak in the heat of January 1910, they imagined a national park for all



Dendrites

Kallia Papadaki | Fiction

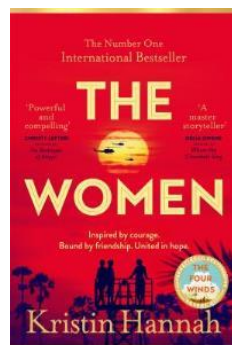
When young Minnie is orphaned, the Campanis family decides to take her in. Ex-hippie Susan and her husband Basil, a second-generation Greek American, along with their daughter Leto react to Minnie's arrival in ways that make old family scars flare up again. Set in crisis-ridden 1980s Camden, New Jersey, among a community of immigrants trying and failing to realize the American dream, *Dendrites* is a poetical elegy to dignity and courage. In this sensitively told story about the quest for a meaningful life amid the ruins of lost second chances.



The women

Kristin Hannah | Fiction

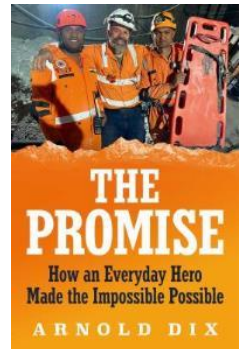
When twenty-year-old nursing student, Frances "Frankie" McGrath, hears these unexpected words, it is a revelation. Raised on California's idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different path for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurses Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the young men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed America. Frankie will also discover the true value of female friendship and the heartbreak that love can cause. *The Women* is the story of one woman who goes to war, but it shines a light on the story of all women who put themselves in harm's way to help others.



The promise: how an everyday hero made the impossible possible

Arnold Dix | 363.348 DIX | Non Fiction

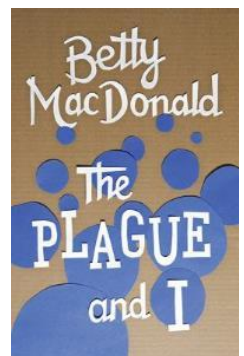
Arnold Dix became an unlikely hero when he promised to save forty-one men trapped after a tunnel collapse in the Himalayas. This is his unforgettable story. In rural Victoria, Arnold Dix is known to locals as a farmer and a part-time truck driver. But his name reached global recognition when he played a pivotal role in rescuing forty-one Indian workers trapped after a deadly tunnel collapse. 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.



The plague and I

Betty MacDonald | 928.1 MACD | Non Fiction

Getting tuberculosis in the middle of your life is like starting downtown to do a lot of urgent errands and being hit by a bus. When you regain consciousness, you remember nothing about the urgent errands. You can't even remember where you were going. Thus begins Betty MacDonald's memoir of her year in a sanatorium just outside Seattle battling the White Plague. MacDonald uses her offbeat humour to make the most of her time in the TB sanatorium making all of us laugh in the process.



The songbirds of Florence

Olivia Spooner | Fiction

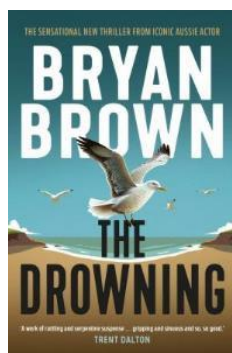
In 1942, a group of young women arrive in Cairo, Egypt. The Tuis, named after the beautiful New Zealand songbird, are the first women from their country to serve overseas. They are to provide respite and a touch of home to weary soldiers returning from the front line. Addy joined the Tuis for the adventure. Vivacious and outgoing, she is the life of the party, with an unforgettable voice. Margot is quiet and withdrawn, grieving the young husband she lost to the war. Despite their differences, the girls become fast friends. When the Tuis are relocated to Italy to set up clubs in grand venues, Addy and Margot are enchanted by the culture. But dark shadows loom, and when their illusion of peace is shattered by news of a devastating attack, the friends will find their endurance pushed to the limit.



The drowning

Bryan Brown | Fiction

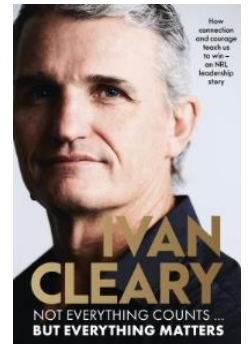
The body of a local teenage boy is found on the beach of a sleepy northern New South Wales town. David went for an evening swim and got into trouble... at least, that's what it looks like. Three weeks before, Leila, a young backpacker, didn't turn up for her shift at the local cafe. Benny, the owner, isn't worried. It happens - backpackers are always on the move. There'll be another one. One of the locals, Adrian, has been a help to Benny. He's found him a nice little sideline. Not exactly legal. Is that all Adrian is arranging on the coast? He once was a cop but has he gone bad? And in the backblocks outside town, a bikie gang is gearing up for a large consignment from South America.



Not everything counts.. but everything matters

Ivan Cleary | 927.963 CLEA | Non Fiction

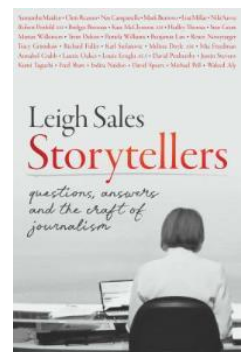
Described as the greatest achievement the modern game has seen, Ivan Cleary is the man behind the astonishing, historic benchmark of multiple back-to-back premierships won by the Penrith Panthers in 2021, 2022 and 2023.



Storytellers: questions, answers and the craft of journalism

Leigh Sales | 070.4 SALE | Non Fiction

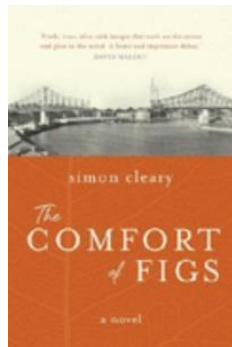
Highly respected ABC anchor, bestselling author and hit podcaster Leigh Sales interviews the cream of Australian journalists about their craft - how (and why) they bring us the stories that inform our lives. Leigh Sales is one of Australia's most accomplished journalists, having anchored the ABC's flagship 7.30 program for twelve years. She has been a foreign correspondent, hosted Lateline and anchored numerous elections for the ABC. In this book, she turns her interviewing skills onto her own profession, those usually asking the questions: the journalists. In ten sections - from News Reporting to Editing, via Investigative, Commentary and of course Interviewing - Sales takes us on a tour of the profession, letting the leaders in their field talk direct to us about how they get their leads, survive in war zones, write a profile, tell a story with pictures, and keep the show on the road. A who's-who of Australian journalism - talk candidly about their greatest lessons and their trade secrets. A fascinating insight into a vital and much-misunderstood profession, Storytellers is a book for anyone who's ever wanted to be a journalist, or even just wondered how the news gets made.



The comfort of figs

Simon Cleary | Ficition

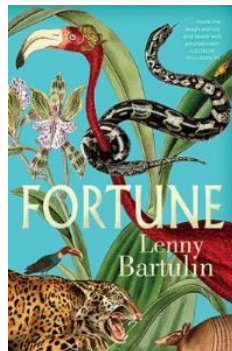
The Comfort of Figs is about genesis: of a city, a bridge, a family, and of the Moreton Bay Fig trees which compete with the growing metropolis for survival. Spanning two time-frames, The Comfort of Figs, follows Brisbane tree-planter Robbie O'Hara as his devotion to nature leads him to his Canadian environmental activist girlfriend, Freya. Still Robbie cannot escape his family's expectations of him. Burdened by his father's engineering achievements - begun in the late 1930s during the construction of the iconic steel bridge which straddles the city's river - Robbie battles his father's legacy by planting fig trees across the city. As his obsession consumes him, Robbie confronts not only the truths at the heart of his family story, but learns about the birth of the city itself.



Fortune

Lenny Bartulin | Fiction

In 1806 Napoleon Bonaparte conquered Prussia. Beginning on the very day he leads his triumphant Grande Armée into Berlin through the Brandenburg Gate, Fortune traces the fates of a handful of souls whose lives briefly touch on that momentous day and then diverge across the globe. Spanning more than a century, the novel moves from the Napoleonic Wars to South America, and from the early penal settlement of Van Diemen's Land to the cannons of the First World War, mapping the reverberations of history on ordinary people. Some lives are willed into action and others are merely endured, but all are subject to the unpredictable whims of chance. Fortune is a historical novel like no other, a perfect jewel of epic and intense brilliance.



In the heart of the sea

Nathaniel Philbrick | 910.91 PHIL | Non Fiction

When the whaleship Essex set sail from Nantucket in 1819, the unthinkable happened. A mere speck in the vast Pacific ocean - and powerless against the forces of nature - Essex was rammed and sunk by an enraged sperm whale, and her twenty crewmen were forced to take to the open sea in three small boats. Ninety days later only a handful of survivors were rescued - and a terrifying story of desperation, cannibalism and courage was revealed. One of the greatest sea yarns ever spun, 'In the Heart of the Sea' is the true story of the extraordinary events that inspired Herman Melville's masterpiece 'Moby-Dick'.



Turner's turn

Geraldine Turner | 927.92 TURN | Non Fiction

Geraldine Turner is one of Australia's most renowned stars of the stage, but growing up in Brisbane in the 1950s and 1960s in a dysfunctional family fraught with alcohol abuse, violence and mental health issues, Geraldine could hardly have imagined the places her talent would take her and the esteem in which she would one day be held. Turner shares poignant stories of her relationship with her parents and siblings and the many years of commitment required to make it to the top. She describes frankly the highs and disappointments of a life in show business, the challenge of maintaining personal relationships alongside a demanding schedule of rehearsals and performances, as well as the rivalries and camaraderie amongst those who have made the stage their life. Geraldine Turner's career has seen her star in acclaimed Australian productions of great musicals including Chicago and Anything Goes and Stephen Sondheim works including Sweeney Todd, Company and Into the Woods, which led to an enduring friendship with the great composer.

