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Issue 9 – 2021

Adult fiction



NIGHT BLUE by Angela O'Keeffe

F/OKEE

F/DETT

Potent, haunting and lyrical, Night Blue is a debut novel like no other, a narrative largely told in the voice of the painting Blue Poles. It is a truly original and absorbing approach to revisiting Jackson Pollock and his wife Lee Krasner as artists and people, as well as realigning our ideas around the cultural legacy of Whitlam's purchase of Blue Poles in 1973. It is also the story of Alyssa, and a contemporary relationship, in which Angela O'Keeffe immerses us in the essential power of art to change our personal lives and, by turns, a nation. Moving between New York and Australia with fluid ease, Night Blue is intimate and tender, yet surprisingly dramatic. It is a glorious exploration of how art must never be undervalued.



THIS HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY LOVELY by Jessica Dettman

Family is forever, and there's nothing you can do about it. Dettmann nails the funny, sad and bizarre nuances of family life in this gripping novel. Molly's a millennial home organiser about to have her first baby. Obviously her mum, Annie, will help with the childcare. Everyone else's parents are doing it. But Annie's dreams of music stardom have been on hold for thirty-five years, paused by childbirth then buried under her responsibilities as a mother, wage earner, wife, and only child of ailing parents. Finally, she can taste freedom. As Molly and her siblings gather in the close quarters of the family home over one fraught summer, shocking revelations come to light. Everyone is forced to confront the question of what it means to be a family.



TWO SISTERS by Josephine Cox

The pretty Arnold sisters have grown up on their father's farm and yearn for something more out of life than drudgery and toil. Ellen, loyal and honest, is her father's favourite, but Georgina is impulsive and unreliable, and can't please a father who has never shown her love. The big house, Grindle Hall, offers them both a chance of betterment, but while Ellen follows the steady path, Georgina takes a darker road and soon, her actions will have fateful consequences for them all. Only Ellen can help them, but will a sister's love be enough?

F/COX

Adult fiction



REPENTANCE by Alison Gibbs

It's the summer of 1976, and the winds of change are blowing through the small town of Repentance on the edge of the Great Dividing Range. The old families cut timber, but the new settlers have a different perspective on the natural order and humankind's place in the scheme of things. The bush keeps its own rhythms, but soon everything will be disturbed. Either the old growth is coming down or the loggers have to be stopped. And although not everyone agrees on tactics, no one will escape being drawn into the coming confrontation.

INTERNA PUSHING BACK

t THE SECOND SOUN-SOUN-BORAINE PECK

PUSHING BACK by John Kinselle

Pushing Back is John Kinsella's most haunting and timely fiction to date. It is populated with eccentric, compelling characters, drifters, unlikely friendships, the silences of dissolving relationships, haunted dwellings and lonely highways, the ghosts of cleared bushland and the threats of right-wing nationalists and senseless destruction. Yet throughout this assured distillation of contemporary Australian life, empathy rises like the red- tailed black cockatoos that appear and reappear, nature coalescing with the human spirit, the animals, the trees, the land, the people pushing back. These stories are at once disturbing, tender and hopeful.

THE SECOND SON by Loraine Peck

Duty always has a price. When Ivan Novak is shot dead putting out his garbage bins in Sydney's west, his family wants revenge, especially his father Milan, a notorious crime boss. It's a job for the second son, Ivan's younger brother Johnny. But Johnny loves his wife Amy and their son Sasha. And she's about to deliver her ultimatum - either the three of them escape this wave of killing or she'll leave, taking Sasha. Torn between loyalty to his family and love for his wife, Johnny plans the heist of a lifetime and takes a huge risk. Is he prepared to pay the price? And what choice will Amy make? The Second Son is a brilliant action-packed crime debut that creates a world where honour is everything, violence is its own language, and love means breaking all the rules.



SARGASSO by Kathy George

As a child, Hannah lived at Sargasso, the isolated beachside home designed by her father, a brilliant architect. A lonely, introverted child, she wanted no company but that of Flint, the enigmatic boy who no one else ever saw, and who promised he would always look after her. Hannah's idyllic childhood at Sargasso ended in tragedy, but now as an adult she is back to renovate the house, which she has inherited from her grandmother. Her boyfriend Tristan visits regularly but then, amid a series of uncanny incidents, Flint reappears ... and as his possessiveness grows, Hannah's hold on the world begins to lapse. What is real and what is imaginary, or from beyond the grave? Sargasso is a mesmerising Australian novel that echoes the great gothic stories of love and hate: *Wuthering Heights, Jane Eyre*, and Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*.

F/PECK

F/GEOR

F/GIBB

F/KINS

Adult fiction



THE SILENT LISTENER by Lyn Yeowart

In the cold, wet summer of 1960, 11-year-old Joy Henderson lives in constant fear of her father. She tries to make him happy but, as he keeps reminding her, she is nothing but a filthy sinner destined for Hell . . . Yet, decades later, she returns to the family's farm to nurse him on his death bed. To her surprise, her 'perfect' sister Ruth is also there, whispering dark words, urging revenge. Then the day after their father finally confesses to a despicable crime, Joy finds him dead - with a belt pulled tight around his neck . . . For Senior Constable Alex Shepherd, investigating George's murder revives memories of an unsolved case still haunting him since that strange summer of 1960- the disappearance of nine-year-old Wendy Boscombe. As seemingly impossible facts surface about the Hendersons, Shepherd suspects that Joy is pulling him into an intricate web of lies and that Wendy's disappearance is the key to the bizarre truth.

THE BREAKING by Irma Gold

Hannah Bird has just arrived in Thailand. Disoriented and out of her depth, she meets Deven, a fierce and gutsy Australian expat who sweeps her into thrilling adventures rescuing elephants. As they head deeper and deeper into the fraught world of elephant tourism, their lives become tangled in ways Hannah never imagined. But how far will they go to save a life? Hannah is about to make a critical decision from which there will be no turning back, with shattering consequences. This is an intensely moving story about the magnetic bond between two young women and the enduring cost of animal exploitation.

HOUSE OF LEAVES by Mark Z. Danielewski,



For the first time, this astonishing novel is made available in book form, complete with the original colored words, vertical footnotes, and newly added second and third appendices. The story remains unchanged, focusing on a young family that moves into a small home on Ash Tree Lane where they discover something is terribly wrong: their house is bigger on the inside than it is on the outside. Of course, neither Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Will Navidson nor his companion Karen Green was prepared to face the consequences of that impossibility, until the day their two little children wandered off and their voices eerily began to return another story—of creature darkness, of an ever-growing abyss behind a closet door, and of that unholy growl which soon enough would tear through their walls and consume all their dreams.



EYE OF A ROOK by Josephine Taylor

Two women are separated by time and place but connected by a mystifying illness. In 1860s London, Arthur sees his wife, Emily, suddenly struck down by a pain for which she can find no words, forced to endure harmful treatments and reliant on him for guidance. Meanwhile, in contemporary Perth, Alice, a writer, and her older husband, Duncan, find their marriage threatened as Alice investigates the history of hysteria, female sexuality and the treatment of the female body -- her own and the bodies of those who came before. This beautifully written novel will appeal to fans of literary historical fiction.

F/DANI

F/GOLD

F/YEOW

F/TAYL

Adult fiction



WE WERE NOT MEN by Campbell Mattinson

F/MATT

Love for nine-year-old twins Jon and Eden Hardacre is simple. Their mum, the creek that they swim in, each other, this is the love that they trust, love as clear and pure as sunlight, as honey, as water. But then there's a terrible accident. And in its wake, they develop a desperation, a yearning, to outgrow tragedy. They get older, compete with each other, fall in love with the same girl, and begin to realise that their lives, and who they love, demand something more. Something deeper. Richer.

THE BEAUTIFUL FALL by Hugh Breakey

F/BREA



Every 179 days, Robbie forgets everything. He knows this because last time it happened he wrote himself a letter explaining it. The disorientation. The fear. The bizarre circumstances imposed by the rare neurological condition he lives with. To survive the forgetting - to cope with his recurring loss of identity - Robbie leads a solitary, regimented life. Works to complete a strange herculean task set for him by his former self. And then, with twelve days left before his next forgetting. Julie invades his life. Young, beautiful - the only woman he can ever remember meeting. As the hour draws near, Robbie is forced to confront the fact that his past is very different from how he had imagined it. And when Julie reveals her own terrible secret, he must find a way to come to terms with the truth about himself.



THE TERMINAL LIST : A THRILLER by Jack Carr

On his last combat deployment, Lieutenant Commander James Reece's entire team was killed in a catastrophic ambush that also claimed the lives of the aircrew sent in to rescue them. But when those dearest to him are murdered on the day of his homecoming, Reece discovers that this was not an act of war by a foreign enemy but a conspiracy that runs to the highest levels of government. Now, with no family and free from the military's command structure, Reece applies the lessons that he's learned in over a decade of constant warfare toward avenging the deaths of his family and teammates.



RED CORONA by Tim Glister

Richard Knox is a secret agent in big trouble. He's been hung out to dry by a traitor in MI5, and the only way to clear his name could destroy him. Meanwhile in a secret Russian city, brilliant scientist Irina Valera makes a discovery that will change the world, and hand the KGB unimaginable power. Desperate for a way back into MI5, Knox finds an unlikely ally in Abey Bennett, a CIA recruit who's determined to prove herself whatever the cost. As the age of global surveillance dawns, three powers will battle for dominance, and three people will fight to survive.

F/CARR

F/GLIS

Adult fiction



STILL LIFE by Sarah Winman

1944, in the ruined wine cellar of a Tuscan villa, as bombs fall around them, two strangers meet and share an extraordinary evening. Ulysses Temper is a young British soldier, Evelyn Skinner is a sexagenarian art historian and possible spy. She has come to Italy to salvage paintings from the wreckage and relive memories of the time she encountered EM Forster and had her heart stolen by an Italian maid in a particular Florentine room with a view. Evelyn's talk of truth and beauty plants a seed in Ulysses' mind that will shape the trajectory of his life - and of those who love him - for the next four decades.

NOW THAT I SEE YOU by Emma Batchelor

F/BATC

F/WINM



"In those first moments, that admission felt precious to me: it was something that I alone had been deemed worthy enough to carry and I was grateful. I was grateful to finally know, but I still couldn't speak." Viewed through the lens of a relationship breakdown after one partner discloses to the other that they are transgender, this autofiction spans eighteen months: from the moment of first discovery, through the eventual disintegration of the partnership, to the new beginnings of independence.



AMY SUITER CLARKE

GIRL,11 by Amy Suitor Clarke

A social worker turned true-crime podcaster investigates a decades-old serial killer cold case-only to unwittingly create new victims. Former social worker Elle Castillo is the host of a popular podcast that tackles cold cases of missing children in her hometown. After four seasons of successful investigations, Elle decides to tackle her white whale: the Countdown Killer, or TCK. Twenty years ago, TCK established a pattern of taking and ritual-istically murdering girls, each a year younger than the last. No one's ever known why-why he stopped abruptly with his eleven-year-old victim. Weeks into her new season, Elle sets out to interview a listener promising a tip, only to discover his dead body, Elle is convinced TCK is back.



THE BRIDGERTONS : HAPPILY EVER AFTER by Julia Quinn

Once upon a Regency time, an author created a family. But not just any family. Eight brothers and sisters, assorted in-laws, sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, plus an irrepressible matriarch who's a match for any of them. These are the Bridgertons. Through eight novels, readers laughed, cried, and fell in love. But they wanted more. And so the readers asked the author. What happened next? Does Simon ever read his father's letters? Do Francesca and Michael become parents? Who would win in a Pall Mall grudge match? Does 'The end' really have to be the end? This is a collection of Julia Quinn's funny, heartwarming 'second epilogues,' which are included at the ends of each novel.

F/CLAR

F/QUIN/Bk. 9

Non-fiction



DEAD IN THE WATER by Richard Beasley 333.91/BEAS & L.P/333.91/BEAS

Richard Beasley is fed up. He's fed up with vested interests killing off Australia's most precious water resource. He's fed up with the cowardice and negligence that has allowed Big Agriculture and irrigators to destroy a river system that can sustain both the environment and the communities that depend on it. He's fed up that a noble plan to save Murray-Darling Basin based on the 'best scientific knowledge' has instead been corroded by lies, the denial of climate change, pseudoscience and political expediency. He pulls no punches. He's provocative, he's outrageous, he points the finger without shame. And he will leave you very, very angry. Dead in the Water is political satire of the highest order . . . if weren't all so tragically true.

FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

641.5/FROM



The 185 tested and true recipes in this book have been shared countless times between friends and published as community cookbooks to raise funds for cash-strapped good causes. Food tastes may have changed and evolved, but these recipes stand the test of time - Tex Mex Fish with Crispy Potato Slices to feed a hungry family, Lamb, Lentil and Rosemary Soup to give as a gift to a neighbour who might need a helping hand, or Orange Poppyseed and Cardamon Biscuits to share with a friend with a strong cup of tea. There are recipes for breakfasts, morning teas, soups, salads, vegetarian dishes, main meals, jams, chutneys and preserves, updated with additional tips and hints to ensure success for the most inexperienced modern cook.



THROAT by Ellen van Neerven

A821.4/NEER

Throat is the explosive second poetry collection from award-winning Mununjali Yugambeh writer Ellen van Neerven. Exploring love, language and land, van Neerven flexes their distinctive muscles and shines a light on Australia's unreconciled past and precarious present with humour and heart. Van Neerven is unsparing in the interrogation of colonial impulse, and fiercely loyal to telling the stories that make us who we are.



DARK TALES FROM THE LONG RIVER by David Price

364.994/PRIC

The nine true stories of murder, dispossession, violence and misadventure contained in Dark Tales all took place in the Gascoyne Region during the thirty-three-year tenure of Magistrate C.D.V. Foss, which ended in 1915. Accounts from a wide array of contemporaneous newspapers illuminate these events and expose the dark side of our colonial history. They show how policing and the justice system were used not only to track down serial murderers and petty criminals, but also to subjugate Aboriginal peoples and persecute migrants from Asia --and how many were compelled to take the law into their own hands

Non-fiction



HEALTHY AIR FRYER COOKBOOK by Dana Angelo White 641.77/WHIT

Air frying is fast, convenient, and healthier than oil frying, but it's not easy to find air frying recipes that are healthy and tasty. The Healthy Air Fryer Cookbook contains 100 recipes that are absolutely delicious and also better for your health because they use less oil and contain healthier ingredients than traditional fried foods. Included in this book are better-for-you versions of traditional main dishes, breakfasts, sides (like French fries), desserts (like cookies), and more. You'll also learn how to use this versatile appliance to bake, roast, and grill many of your favorite fried foods--with fewer calories.

FINDING THE HEART OF THE NATION by Thomas Mayor

994.01/MAYO

Since the Uluru Statement from the Heart was formed in 2017, Thomas Mayor has travelled around the country to promote its vision of a better future for Indigenous Australians. He's visited communities big and small, often with the Uluru Statement canvas rolled up in a tube under his arm. Through the story of his own journey and interviews with 20 key people, Thomas taps into a deep sense of our shared humanity. The voices within these chapters make clear what the Uluru Statement is and why it is so important. Thomas believes that we will only find the heart of our nation when the First peoples -the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders -- are recognised with a representative Voice enshrined in the Australian Constitution.



IOMAS MAYOR

WOMEN OF A CERTAIN RAGE by Liz Byrski

152.47/BYRS

B/919.4/GOUV

This book is the result of what happened when Liz Byrski asked 20 Australian women from widely different backgrounds, races, beliefs and identities to take up the challenge of writing about rage. The honesty, passion, courage and humour of their very personal stories is energising and inspiring. If you have ever felt the full force of anger and wondered at its power, then this book is for you.



WILD AT HEART by Alienor Le Gouvello

From the moment French-born Alienor encountered a pair of wild horses in the Australian outback, she was transfixed. Fiercely loved by some and considered a scourge by others, brumbies have a complicated place in Australian culture and history. Inspired to celebrate their character, Alienor tamed three brumbies and teamed up with them to conquer Australia's longest trek. Wild At Heart follows Alienor and her horses on a threeyear journey stretching an extraordinary 5330 kilometres from Healesville in Victoria to Cooktown in tropical Far North Queensland. Through her travels across some of Australia's most spectacular terrain, battling isolation and the elements, she built a profound bond with her horses and made life-changing discoveries where she least expected.

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