



# BLACK INC.

JULY-DECEMBER  
CATALOGUE



2026

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**BLACK INC. CONTACTS**



# Don't Forget to Smile

Ariane Beeston

*You don't stop. You never stop.  
Not if you want to be the best.*

**Clara** has been dancing since she was three and knows exactly what she wants: a place at the Australian National Ballet School and a career as a principal dancer.

**Elle**, who accidentally found herself TikTok famous after a #balletfail went viral, is new to the dance world, horrified at how racist, sexist and classist it is, and thinks ballet needs to grand jeté itself into the twenty-first century.

**Ben**, Elle's best friend, just wants to be able to dance en pointe and have his pick of both male and female solos.

Clara thinks Elle is a bit much. Elle thinks Clara's uptight. Ben's a bit stuck in the middle.

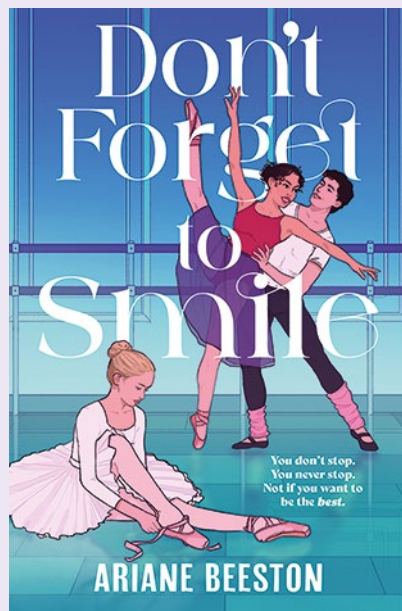
All three want to win the International Ballet Grand Prix at the Sydney Opera House. But when a scandal involving a famous dancer threatens their

futures, the trio must put aside their differences to confront ballet's damaging traditions – and demand it do better.

For ages 12–15+.

**Ariane Beeston** began dancing before she could reliably speak in two-word sentences. She trained to a pre-professional level in ballet and contemporary dance, performing with the Sydney City Youth Ballet and appearing in the English National Ballet's Australian performances of *Swan Lake*. After a detour into psychology and media, Ariane began teaching ballet to toddlers, pre-schoolers and beginner adults.

Ariane's debut memoir, *Because I'm Not Myself, You See* was shortlisted for the Matt Richell Award for New Writer of the Year in 2025. *Don't Forget to Smile* is her first book for young adults. She still wants to be a ballerina when she grows up.



**JULY 2026**

Young adult fiction

9781760645670

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$19.99,

NZ\$24.00

B PB (198 x 128mm)

336pp

‘Naturally talented,’ the ballet teacher gushed to my mum at the end of the week. She didn’t even try to hide her shock. ‘It’s been a while since I’ve seen someone so gifted. Beautiful feet and legs too. Lovely long neck. Pretty face.’ I didn’t think we were allowed to talk about people’s bodies like that, but Miss Becca was just getting warmed up. ‘On the taller side, but you’ve stopped growing, right, Elle?’ She handed me a pair of canvas ballet shoes from lost property as though I were being knighted. ‘You should have these so you can practise at home.’ Miss Becca turned to my mum and locked eyes. ‘And you must get her into formal lessons.’



*Don't Forget to Smile*

**Praise for *Don't Forget to Smile*:**

*'Sensitive, nuanced and bittersweetly hopeful'*

—Ange Crawford,  
author of *How to Be Normal*

*'The book so many of us needed as young dancers trying to find our place in ballet – and in the world'*

—Chloe Angyal,  
author of *Turning Pointe*

*'Fun and feisty with a dash of intrigue, this story will dance its way into your heart.'*

—Clare Atkins,  
author of *Between Us*



# The Shortest History of Reality

Geraint F. Lewis

*From ancient myths and quantum physics to cosmology and dark matter*

In *The Shortest History of Reality*, the idea of ‘what’s real’ is traced from its everyday, common-sense beginnings to the mind-bending discoveries of modern physics. Along the way, we encounter the great shifts in thought that reshaped our view of existence – from ancient philosophy to the rise of science, from Newton’s universe to the strange probabilities of the quantum world and beyond.

Blending science, history and philosophy, this is a brisk and lucid tour through humanity’s changing grasp of reality. With clarity and wit, it introduces key thinkers and turning points, revealing how each era has deepened – and complicated – our understanding of what’s really out there.

Rather than an encyclopaedia of everything that exists, this book is the compelling story of how we’ve tried to make sense of it all.

With a foreword by Derek Muller (Veritasium)

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*‘This book takes you from the tiniest quantum quirks to the grand sweep of the cosmos, all in one exhilarating ride.’*

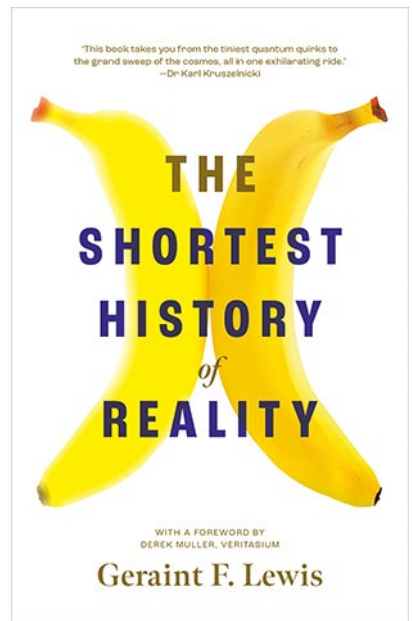
—Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

*‘The Shortest History of Reality is more than history or science – it is a journey of humanity’s attempts to answer one simple question: Is this real?’*

—Brad Tucker, astrophysicist,  
Australian National University

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**Geraint F. Lewis** is a professor of astrophysics at the Sydney Institute for Astronomy, part of the University of Sydney’s School of Physics. He has published more than 500 papers across cosmology, galactic archaeology, gravitational lensing and the fundamental nature of the universe, and four books of popular science, including *The Cosmic Revolutionary’s Handbook* and *Where Did the Universe Come From?*



**JULY 2026**

Science

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9781760645656  
Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: AU\$27.99,  
NZ\$35.00  
B PB (198 x 128mm)  
272pp

# Neighbours

## Australia and the Pacific

Joanne Wallis & Jack Corbett

*A new vision for Australia's  
relationship with the Pacific*

Australia has a long history in the Pacific. Many Australians may have forgotten it, but the region has not forgotten us.

This book provides a new vision of the way Australia might relate to its Pacific neighbours. It replaces amnesia with storytelling that emphasises common ancestors, interests and language. It replaces Australian ambivalence with recognition, humility and respect. It does not wish away the realities of asymmetry and hierarchy between Australia and Pacific Island countries, but instead outlines how Australia can work more productively within them.

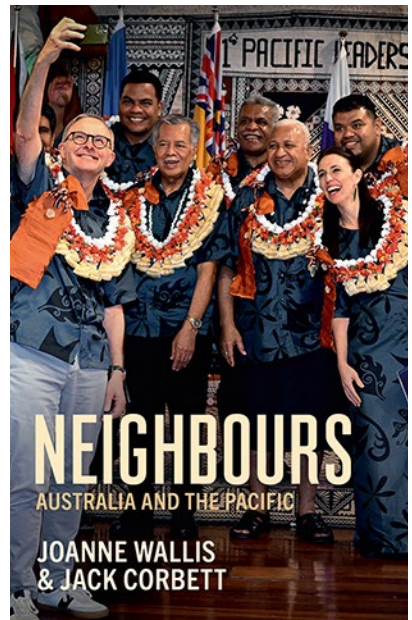
It argues that Australia can only become a better neighbour if it understands its history in the Pacific Islands and the ideas that have guided its foreign policy in the region for the last two centuries. Tracing the many dimensions of that past engagement, it provides an

up-to-date account, written by two highly experienced experts. In doing so it presents a new pathway for our wonderfully diverse region.

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**Joanne Wallis** is Professor of International Security and Director of the Stretton Institute Security in the Pacific Islands Research Program at Adelaide University, and a Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution. She is the author or editor of eleven books, including *Girt by Sea: Reimagining Australia's Security, Constitution Making During State Building* and *Pacific Power? Australia's Strategy in the Pacific Islands*.

**Jack Corbett** is Professor and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Monash University. This is his twelfth book. Previous titles include *Being Political: Leadership and Democracy in the Pacific Islands*; *Australia's Foreign Aid Dilemma: Humanitarian Aspirations Confront Democratic Legitimacy*; and *Statehood À la Carte in the Caribbean and the Pacific: Secession, Regionalism and Postcolonial Politics*.



**JULY 2026**

History

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9781760645571

Imprint: La Trobe

University Press

RRP: AU\$36.99,

NZ\$45.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

288pp

# The Shortest History of the United States of America

Don Watson

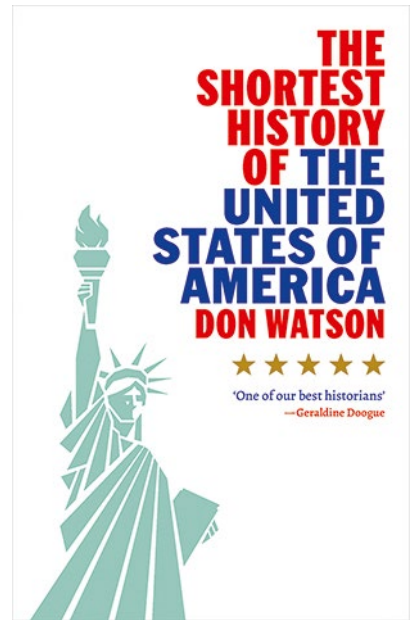
*The extraordinary story of the United States, a nation that contains multitudes*

When Britain's thirteen American colonies declared their independence on 4 July 1776, the United States of America was born. But it was hardly united.

In this superbly written book, Don Watson traces how the central conflicts of the United States – those over freedom, race, frontiers, enterprise, religion and violence – play out through its history: a country at war with itself in the 1860s, the leader of the free world less than a hundred years later, and a nation beset by wild division and turmoil in the twenty-first century.

This is a story full of character and humour, told with great learning and insight – a perfect introduction to America, past and present.

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**Don Watson** is the author of many acclaimed books, including *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart*, *American Journeys*, *The Bush*, *Watsonia*, *The Story of Australia* and *The Passion of Private White*, as well as three Quarterly Essays on American culture and politics.

**JULY 2026**

History

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9781760645984  
Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99,  
NZ\$35.00  
B PB (198 x 128mm)  
288pp

# The Shortest History of Australia

Mark McKenna

*The history of Australia has been written before – but not like this.*

In *The Shortest History of Australia*, Mark McKenna offers a compelling new version of our national story. This is a modern Australia permeated by First Nations history; a multicultural society with an island mindset; a continent of epic beauty and extreme natural events; a country obsessed by war abroad but blind to its founding war at home; and a thriving nation-state still to realise its political independence.

McKenna's wise and humane history reveals the surprising in the familiar, and reframes the past so we can see the present more clearly.

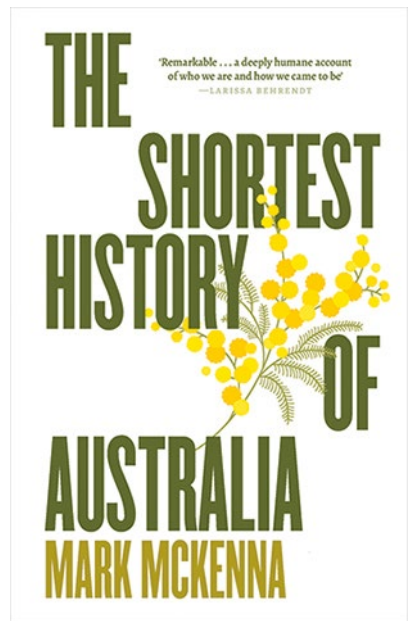
*'A deeply imaginative, beautifully written and individual book'*

—Robert Manne

*'Original, eloquent and moving – a revelatory journey into the past we thought we knew'*

—Tom Griffiths

**Mark McKenna** is an emeritus professor of history at the University of Sydney and the Australian National University. He is the author of several prize-winning books, including *From the Edge: Australia's Lost Histories*, *Looking for Blackfellas' Point*, *Return to Uluru* and *An Eye for Eternity: The Life of Manning Clark*, which won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for nonfiction and the Victorian, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australian premiers' awards.



**AUGUST 2026**

Australian history

9781760645991

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99,

NZ\$35.00

B PB (198 x 128mm)

304pp

# Realms of Gold

## The Remarkable Return of Jack de Crow

A.J. Mackinnon

*The charming sequel to the bestselling **The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow***

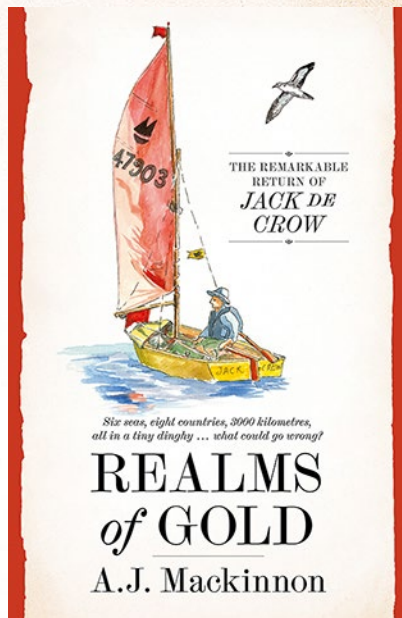
Six seas, eight countries, 3000 kilometres, all in a tiny dinghy ... what could go wrong?

When A.J. 'Sandy' Mackinnon sailed a tiny dinghy through twelve countries from North Wales to the Black Sea, he survived pirates, the English Channel, international incidents and all the disasters, big and small, that can befall a little boat on a long voyage. Those adventures became his beloved bestseller *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*.

Decades later, that trip is a happy memory and Sandy is firmly back on land – until a message from a stranger presents an opportunity too good to refuse. Sandy picks up where his first voyage left off, sailing and rowing single-handedly around the coast from Romania to Venice. From Istanbul to Ithaca, Mount Olympus to the ruins of Troy, he finds himself immersed

in the legends of antiquity, plays chicken with mercurial border police, and is saved more than once by the kindness of strangers. He recounts it all with his unbreakable enthusiasm and self-deprecating humour, taking the reader on a hilarious and unforgettable adventure.

**A.J. Mackinnon** was born in Australia in 1963 and travelled as a boy on P&O liners between Australia and England, developing a love of slow travel. He has taught in schools around the world, sharing his passion for English literature, mathematics, drama, art and philosophy with countless students. He now lives in the Victorian High Country of Australia. He is the author of the international bestseller *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*, as well as *The Well at the World's End* and *Quaint Deeds*.



**AUGUST 2026**

Travel writing

9781760645199  
Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: AU\$36.99,  
NZ\$45.00  
C PB (234 x 153mm)  
368pp



*“Stamp. Rustle. Flip flip flip. Stamp!”*

Captain Nicolai held out my passport with the newly printed exit stamp still gleaming in wet ink. ‘You have now exited Romania. If you set foot back on shore in this country, we will shoot you. Goodbye.’

There is nothing like a death threat to power the oars. I rowed away from Mangalia with all the strength I could muster, but by sunset I had only made it a mile or so beyond the Romanian border. Here my map showed Krapets, a tiny fishing village perched on low cliffs above a little beach crowded with derelict boats. Turning my nose shoreward, I made a beach landing.

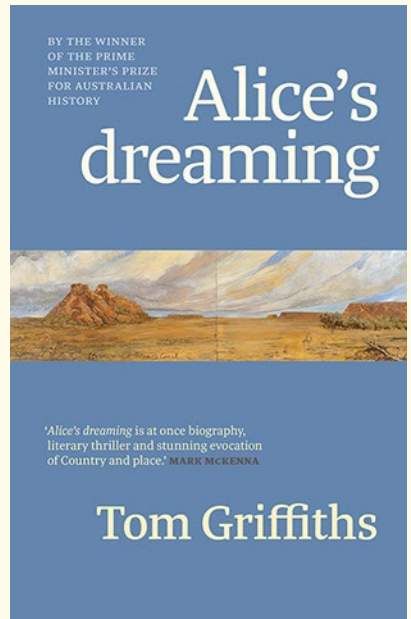
A beach landing sounds such a delightful concept, doesn't it? (Unless you're a D-Day veteran, I suppose.) The truth is that in the last heart-stopping glide towards a beach in even the gentlest swell, there is always a moment where a rogue wave deposits a sandpit full of grit into the boat as a contemptuous flourish. ‘Ha,’ the sea seems to say. ‘You like land so much? Here's a bit more to take with you ...’”

*Realms of Gold:  
The Remarkable Return of Jack de Crow*



# Alice's dreaming

Tom Griffiths



Early last century, Alice Duncan-Kemp grew up on a remote Queensland cattle station. Later she would write down her childhood memories of learning from Aboriginal women and men at home on their own Country. In her books, she evoked a rich parallel universe of storytelling and lore, which she felt privileged to witness. She also spoke of an informal local treaty that curbed the violence of the frontier.

What are we to make of 'Alice's dreaming' today? Master historian and writer Tom Griffiths takes us into – and beyond – this revelatory encounter. Through it we glimpse the turmoil of a complex and tragic frontier, and a remarkable story of survival and cultural resilience. In recent years, the Mithaka people Alice lived among and

wrote about have reclaimed their Country, drawing in part on her writing to support their claims.

*Alice's dreaming* shows how moving, intimate – and unexpected – history can be.

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**Tom Griffiths** is Emeritus Professor of History at the Australian National University. His books include *The Art of Time Travel: Historians and Their Craft* and *Slicing the Silence: Voyaging to Antarctica*. His writing has won prizes in literature, history, science, politics and journalism, including the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History, the Alfred Deakin Prize for an Essay Advancing Public Debate and the Douglas Stewart and Nettie Palmer Prizes for Non-Fiction.

**AUGUST 2026**

Australian history

9781760646240

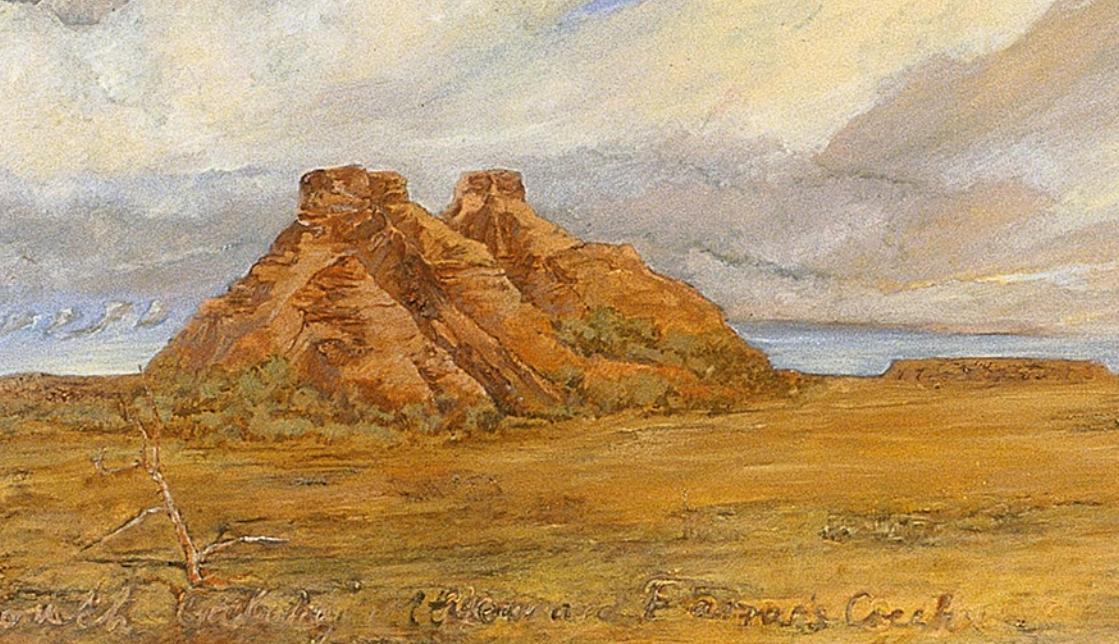
Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$36.99,

NZ\$45.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

384pp



**Praise for Alice's dreaming:**

*'In this wonderful book Tom Griffiths reveals how 60,000 years of First Nations history is intricately woven into the fabric of contemporary Australian values. Alice's dreaming is a work of the greatest importance to our understanding of who we are. It is also great literature, an epic story told with imaginative distinction.'*

—Alex Miller

*'An unforgettable, multi-layered history, Alice's dreaming is at once biography, literary thriller and stunning evocation of Country and place.'*

—Mark McKenna

*'When I read Alice's stories they take me back to what we learned as kids. Her work is so important to us as a people, and to me personally. Everyone needs to know who this woman was and the legacy she left for us. That's what Alice's dreaming is about. I just love the way this book is written.'*

—Mithaka woman Rainy McKellar

'What is the meaning and significance of Alice's words today? This has become my quest. Her writing is elusive, layered and uncanny, a palimpsest seemingly resistant to analysis. The poetic truth of her work is unassailable, but the literal truth of her testimony has also come to

matter very much, for it is a bridge to the future and deserves to be tested. As well as reading Alice's work with scholarly scepticism, a historian should nurture our capacity to imagine the possibility that these things happened, were truly felt, and – yes – that they were extraordinary.'

*Alice's dreaming*

# The Art of Time Travel

Historians and Their Craft

Tom Griffiths

*No matter how practised we are at history, it always humbles us. No matter how often we visit the past, it always surprises us.*

**Winner of the Ernest Scott Prize and Shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Non-fiction**

With every sentence they write, historians must walk the tightrope between discipline and imagination, empathy and evidence. In this landmark work, eminent historian and award-winning author Tom Griffiths shares his passion for the fascinating, complex craft of history – or, as he calls it, the art of time travel.

In fourteen portraits, Griffiths illuminates how historians such as Inga Clendinnen, Judith Wright, Geoffrey Blainey and Henry Reynolds have approached their craft. In prose both earthy and elegant, he shows the new insights they have brought to Australian history, and in so doing reshapes our shared knowledge of this continent.

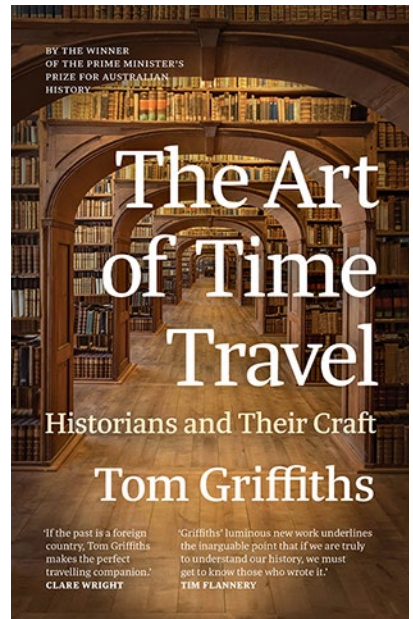
*The Art of Time Travel* is an exhilarating book that will forever change the way you think of Australia's past.

*'A rare feat of imagination and generosity'*  
—Mark McKenna

*'If the past is a foreign country, Tom Griffiths makes the perfect travelling companion. Let him be your eyes and ears on our shared history. Most of all, follow his heart.'*

—Clare Wright

**Tom Griffiths** is the W.K. Hancock Professor of History at the Australian National University. His books and essays have won prizes in literature, history, science, politics and journalism, including the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History, the Ernest Scott Prize and the NSW, Victorian and Queensland Premiers' Literary Awards.



**AUGUST 2026**

History

9781760646516  
Imprint: Black Inc.  
Books

RRP: AU\$36.99,  
NZ\$45.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)  
256pp

# Truth Under Fire

## Australia's Second World War Correspondents

Daniel Seaton

*The story of six remarkable men who shaped the way Australians witnessed and remember war*

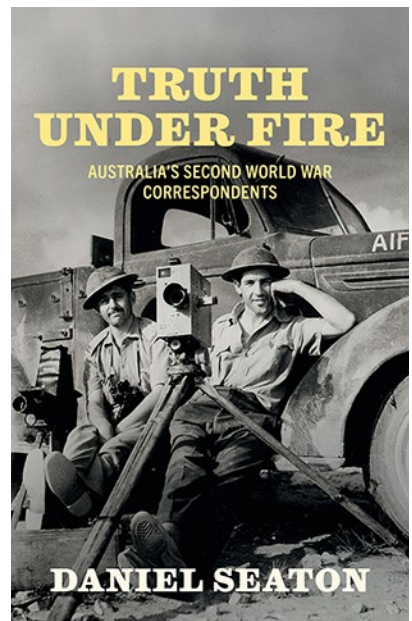
This is a biography of six of Australia's most notable Second World War correspondents, who were also significant cultural figures: Kenneth Slessor, Damien Parer, Chester Wilmot, George Johnston, Osmar White and George Silk.

Some believe Chester Wilmot was the best Allied war correspondent of all, especially as seen in his book *The Struggle for Europe*. Kenneth Slessor is now regarded as one of Australia's finest poets. Damien Parer, George Silk and Osmar White made their names bringing the New Guinea campaign to the world's attention. George Johnston is remembered for his Miles Franklin Award-winning novel *My Brother Jack* and his writing partnership with wife Charmian Clift.

Daniel Seaton argues that to truly understand the individuals who made up this network, we must consider them not just as a series of separate journalists but as a group connected through their work, social interactions, journalistic ambition and philosophy, artistic interests and engagement with the Anzac legend. In this vivid, groundbreaking book, he does just that. A must-read for anyone interested in Australian military history and writing.

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**Daniel Seaton** is a writer and historian. He is a researcher for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and was previously a research scholar at the Australian War Memorial. His writing has appeared in the *Australian Book Review*, *Overland* and *Openbook*.



**AUGUST 2026**

Military & defence

9781760645847

Imprint: La Trobe

University Press

RRP: AU\$36.99,

NZ\$45.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

304pp

# Hard New World

## Australia's Post-American Future

Hugh White

*What is Australia's place in the new global landscape?*

Are we ready for our post-American future? In an era of rising danger for all, and dramatic choices for Australia, Hugh White explores how the world is changing and Australia should respond.

Under Donald Trump, America's retreat from global leadership has been swift and erratic. China, Russia and India are on the move. White explains the big strategic trends driving the war in Ukraine, and why America has 'lost' Asia. He discusses Albanese Labor's record and why complacency about the American alliance – including AUKUS – is no longer an option. This brilliant short book urges us to navigate a hard new world with realism and confidence.

This is a thoroughly updated and significantly expanded edition of the bestselling Quarterly Essay.



**Hugh White** is the author of *The China Choice* and *How To Defend Australia*, and the acclaimed Quarterly Essays *Power Shift*, *Without America* and *Sleepwalk to War*. He is emeritus professor of strategic studies at ANU and was the principal author of Australia's Defence White Paper 2000.

**AUGUST 2026**

Foreign affairs

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9781760646226

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$36.99,

NZ\$45.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

224pp

# God AI

## Boom or Doom? What to Expect When Machines Outsmart Us

Toby Walsh

*Is it game over for humanity?  
The essential guide to our most  
dangerous invention*

Our fears about artificial general intelligence go deep. They touch on our very identity as thinking, feeling creatures, and on our place in the universe. Are we creating our own successor? And might this creation be a god?

In this vital contribution, leading researcher and author Professor Toby Walsh explores the existential risks posed by our accelerating efforts to realise an AI-powered future. While AI models are leading to the development of wondrous technologies such as potentially life-saving drugs, they are also disrupting the lives of millions across the globe by rapidly reshaping our relationships with work and with one another. But there are also clear risks that powerful AI threatens our very existence as a species.

In an increasingly fractured world, what happens when AI hits the singularity and gains the ability to recursively self-improve? Could we so

fully outsource our own thinking to AI that we make ourselves obsolete? Could machines become so intelligent that it is game over for humanity?

With his typical lucidity and humour, Walsh explores the issues, evaluates the dangers and considers what we can do to prevent AI harms before it is too late.

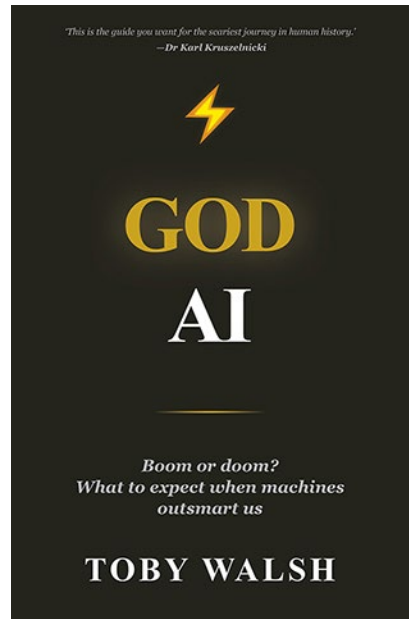
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*'If you only read one book about what happens when machines get smarter than us, make it this one. This is the guide you want for the scariest journey in human history.'*

—Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

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**Toby Walsh** is one of the world's leading researchers in artificial intelligence. He is a professor of artificial intelligence at the University of New South Wales and chief scientist at its AI institute, UNSW.ai. He is the author of five books about AI, including *Machines Behaving Badly*, *Faking It* and, most recently, *The Shortest History of AI*.



**SEPTEMBER 2026**

Science & technology

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9781760645830

Imprint: La Trobe

University Press

RRP: AU\$36.99,

NZ\$45.00

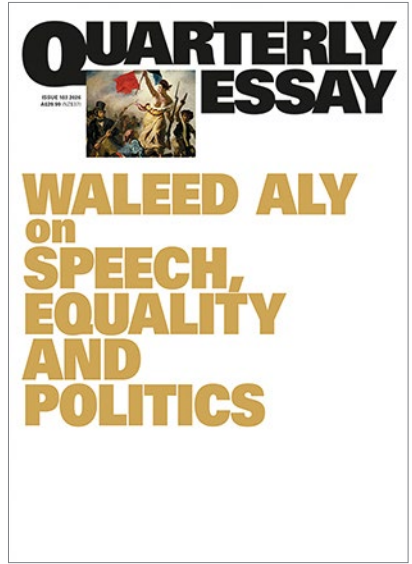
C PB (234 x 153mm)

240pp

# Quarterly Essay 103

On speech, equality and politics

Waleed Aly



In this wonderfully clarifying essay, Waleed Aly examines what happened to liberalism. As a set of ideas, it offered formal equality and guaranteed freedoms. But more and more, we live in a post-liberal world.

Aly looks and how and why this has happened. He discusses what has taken liberalism's place as we tackle thorny questions of freedom of speech and equality of opportunity. And he examines the limits of liberalism, the rise of illiberal democracy and the new battles over identity.

This is a supple and original essay about the forces transforming our politics.

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**Waleed Aly** is a writer, academic, lawyer and broadcaster. A lecturer in politics at Monash University, he is the author of *People Like Us*, Quarterly Essay 37, *What's Right?* and Quarterly Essay 87, *Uncivil Wars* (with Scott Stephens). He co-hosts Radio National's *The Minefield* program.

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

Politics & government

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9781760645816  
Imprint: Quarterly  
Essay  
RRP: AU\$29.99,  
NZ\$37.00  
PB (234 x 167mm)  
112pp

# Waves of Plenty

Immigration and the  
Making of Australia

Mark Cully

*The definitive story of how  
immigration made Australia*

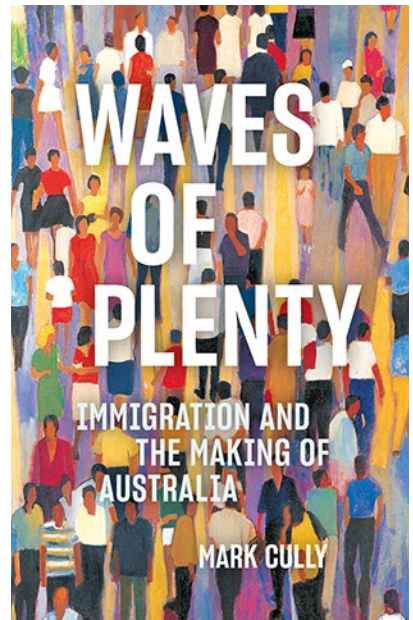
Many Australians can trace family journeys to new lives in Australia. In this landmark work, Mark Cully tells the full story of immigration to Australia, from pre-colonial origins through to colonisation, the gold rush, the postwar immigration boom, the end of the White Australia policy, and the modern policy of temporary migration.

Rigorously researched, the book dismantles persistent myths, gives human faces to statistics, and maps the forces that transformed a distant colony into one of the world's most diverse societies. He traces how immigration has changed Australia, making it bigger, younger, diverse, less provincial and more powerful.

This is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand where Australia came from, the fraught politics of immigration, and lessons for the future.

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**Mark Cully** was chief economist for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Department of Industry, as well as chair of the OECD's Working Party on Migration. As head of macroeconomic policy in the Treasury, he led the design of the JobKeeper program during the pandemic. He is an expert panel member of the Fair Work Commission and a visiting fellow at ANU's Crawford School of Public Policy.



**SEPTEMBER 2026**

History

9781760645410

Imprint: La Trobe

University Press

RRP: AU\$39.99,

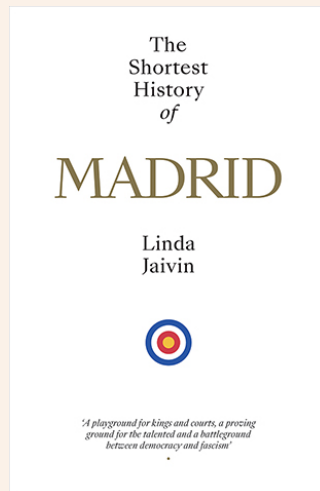
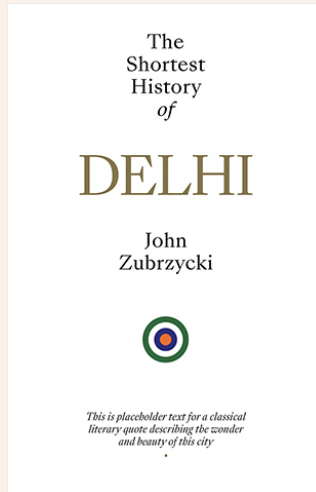
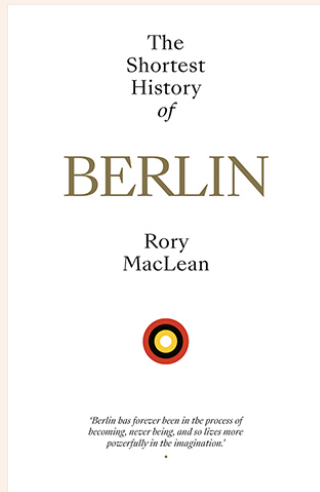
NZ\$48.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

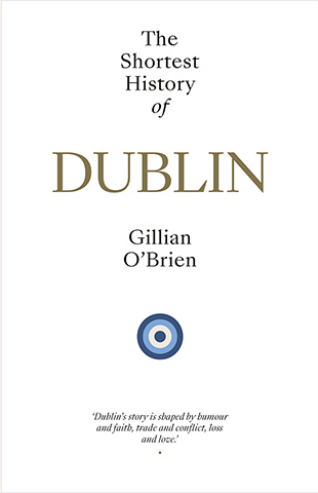
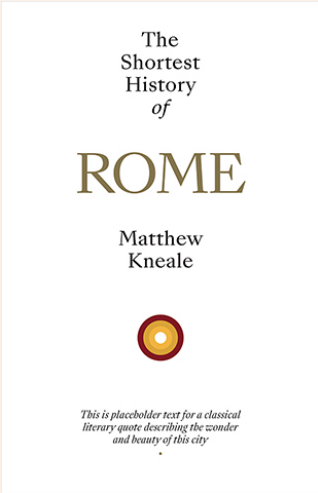
400pp

# Introducing the Shortest Cities series

From our internationally bestselling Shortest History series comes a compelling new strand: Shortest Histories of some of the world's most iconic cities.



Rich in intrigue and deftly crafted by leading historians, these books trace the layered histories and cultures of the world's great urban centres, from the piazzas of Rome to the bazaars of Delhi.



# The Shortest History of Madrid

Linda Jaivin

*Madrid's story is one of the most unlikely of any European capital.*

The only European capital founded as a Muslim settlement, Madrid has a story as diverse as its population today. From the grandeur of the Habsburg and Bourbon dynasties to the chaos and trauma of civil war and dictatorship, Madrid has survived it all with defiant spirit.

It has been home to some of Spain's – and the world's – most brilliant writers, thinkers and artists, from Cervantes and Goya to Hemingway and Almodóvar. It has been the setting for outrageous political scandals, mass movements and wild literary rivalries. And it continues to be a city that refuses to be defined by anything but its own irrepressible energy.

---

**Linda Jaivin** is a cultural commentator, essayist and translator and has written twelve books, including *The Shortest History of China* and *Bombard the Headquarters!*

The  
Shortest  
History  
of

MADRID

Linda  
Jaivin



*'A playground for kings and courts, a proving ground for the talented and a battleground between democracy and fascism'*

**OCTOBER 2026**

History

9781760645540

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99,

NZ\$35.00

B PB (198 x 128mm)

240pp

# The Shortest History of Delhi

John Zubrzycki

*The essential introduction to a city that has captivated imaginations for millennia*

Delhi, with its stories of intrigue and empire, decadence and artistry, destruction and rebirth, has been exhilarating travellers for centuries. Its history stretches back thousands of years, through invasions, empires and the struggle for independence.

This many-layered history can be seen on the streets of Delhi today – in ancient monuments to emperors, saints, princesses and eunuchs; in the domes of mosques clad in shimmering white marble; in stately Mughal gardens; and in the bustling laneways of its markets and neighbourhoods. Now, Delhi is a vast megalopolis, drawing people from all over the subcontinent, a cornucopia of religions, castes, languages and economic classes.

In *The Shortest History of Delhi*, John Zubrzycki pairs an invigorating account of Delhi's past with an insider's guide to the city today.

**John Zubrzycki** is an Australian author with a PhD in Indian history from the University of New South Wales. A former foreign news editor with *The Australian*, he has worked as a correspondent in India and as a diplomat in New Delhi and Jakarta. His previous books include *The Shortest History of India*; *Dethroned: The Downfall of India's Princely States*; *House of Jaipur: The Inside Story of India's Most Glamorous Royal Family*; and *Empire of Enchantment: The Story of Indian Magic*.

The  
Shortest  
History  
of

DELHI

John  
Zubrzycki



*This is placeholder text for a classical literary quote describing the wonder and beauty of this city*

**OCTOBER 2026**

History

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9781760645557  
Imprint: Black Inc.  
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B PB (198 x 128mm)  
240pp

# The Shortest History of Berlin

Rory MacLean

*'Yesterday echoes along today's streets, and the ideas conjured up by Berlin's dreamers, dictators, liars and artists seem as solid as its bricks and mortar.'*

Shaped by waves of death and war, and all but obliterated in both the Hundred Years' and Second World Wars, Berlin is not an ancient city. Founded in the thirteenth century, this small trading post became the capital of Prussia. Berlin's youth has always spurred it towards the future. Yet at the same time it longed for a noble past to perpetuate its own myth.

*The Shortest History of Berlin* traces the city's unique story through the individuals who made it, from Frederick the Great to Marlene Dietrich, Karl Friedrich Schinkel to David Bowie, Walter Rathenau Bettmann to Leni Riefenstahl.

While Berlin may no longer physical divided in two, it still grapples with extremes, leading the global fight for environmental protection and welcoming refugees by the tens of thousands yet facing rising populist nationalism.

*The Shortest History of Berlin* is an exploration of the human hand in history, the power of myth-making, and resilience in the face of death, destruction and division.

**Rory MacLean** is the author of more than a dozen books including *Stalin's Nose*, *Under the Dragon* and *Geography of Heaven: Travels to the Hereafter*. He has won awards from the Canada Council and the Arts Council of England as well as a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship, and was nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary prize. John le Carré called him 'surely the outstanding, and most indefatigable, traveller-writer of our time'. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the curator of the annual Sherborne Travel Writing Festival, he divides his time between the UK, Berlin and Sicily.

The  
Shortest  
History  
of

BERLIN

Rory  
MacLean



*'Berlin has forever been in the process of becoming, never being, and so lives more powerfully in the imagination.'*

**OCTOBER 2026**  
History

9781760645564  
Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: AU\$27.99,  
NZ\$35.00  
B PB (198 x 128mm)  
208pp

# The Shortest History of Dublin

Gillian O'Brien

*A city steeped in its past*

Dublin has never been a place easily reduced to a single story. Developed as a Viking settlement, it became the difficult second city of the British Empire – a colonial capital that served empire rather than nation. For centuries it strained to rival London; later it struggled to define itself apart from it. Yet today it stands as an increasingly multicultural global city with a rich literary past.

*The Shortest History of Dublin* explores that restless inheritance – the ways in which Dublin remembers, forgets and remakes itself. It shows how Dublin's truest identity endures in the words of its greatest writers, from the likes of Joyce and Yeats to modern authors Roddy Doyle, Anne Enright,

Sebastian Barry and Sally Rooney. And that the challenge of this city of music, writing, architecture and craic is to balance change with character, growth with memory.

**Dr Gillian O'Brien** is a Reader in Modern Irish History at Liverpool John Moores University. She is a member of the Board of the Irish Museums Association, a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a former Fulbright Scholar. Gillian is the author of *Blood Runs Green: The Murder That Transfixed Gilded Age Chicago* and *The Darkness Echoing: Exploring Ireland's Places of Famine, Death & Rebellion*.

The  
Shortest  
History  
of

DUBLIN

Gillian  
O'Brien



*'Dublin's story is shaped by humour  
and faith, trade and conflict, loss  
and love.'*

**OCTOBER 2026**

History

9781760645618

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99,

NZ\$35.00

B PB (198 x 128mm)

224pp

# The Shortest History of Rome

Matthew Kneale

*No city tells the story of human ambition, folly and resilience quite like Rome.*

Few cities wear their history so openly as Rome: walking its streets, you step between millennia, from ancient forums to Renaissance piazzas, Baroque fountains to the bleak constructions of Mussolini's Fascist regime. Nowhere else do we have such a continuous picture of how a city evolved – and how its people lived – across two and a half thousand years.

In *The Shortest History of Rome*, Matthew Kneale explores how a group of hill settlements grew to become the capital of the ancient world and then reinvented itself as the spiritual capital of Christendom, before enduring the tumult of the twentieth century. No city has been reborn so many times. Sacked by Visigoths, rebuilt by popes, occupied by Napoleon, and eventually the capital of a unified Italy – Rome has outlasted every force that sought to define or destroy it.

Veering from the heroic to the tragicomic, Rome's history illuminates the history of humanity itself.

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**Matthew Kneale** studied modern history at Magdalen College, Oxford, and is an acclaimed author of both fiction and non-fiction. His novel *English Passengers* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the Whitbread Book of the Year Award. *Rome: A History in Seven Sackings* was a Sunday Times bestseller. He has lived in Rome for more than two decades.

The  
Shortest  
History  
of  
**ROME**

Matthew  
Kneale



*This is placeholder text for a classical literary quote describing the wonder and beauty of this city*

**OCTOBER 2026**

History

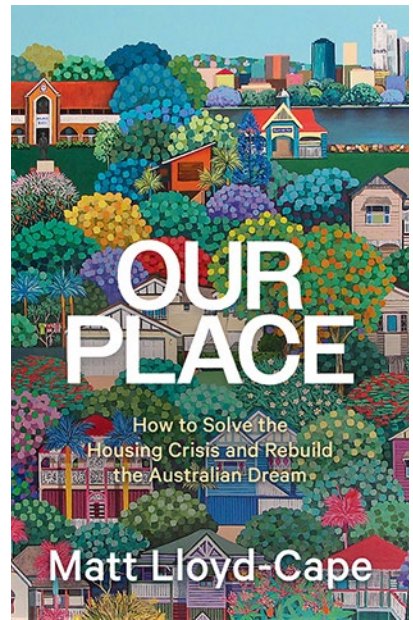
9781760645977  
Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: AU\$27.99,  
NZ\$35.00  
B PB (198 x 128mm)  
288pp

# Our Place

## How to Solve the Housing Crisis and Rebuild the Australian Dream

Matt Lloyd-Cape

*An evidence-based guide to solving Australia's housing crisis from a leading policy expert*



Australia has faced a housing crisis before – and solved it. We can do it again.

In *Our Place*, leading policy expert Matt Lloyd-Cape cuts through the noise with clarity and conviction, showing exactly how our housing system broke – and why it still feels impossible to fix. Drawing on the latest research, he reveals who is paying the price: social housing tenants, renters locked out of stability, first-home buyers chasing an ever-moving target, and recent buyers weighed down by mortgages that never seem to shrink.

Lloyd-Cape argues that tinkering at the edges won't be enough. To truly solve the crisis, we need to think bigger – much bigger.

The tools are already within reach. What's missing is a plan bold enough to win public support, and leaders brave enough to challenge the economic and political assumptions that got us here.

*Our Place* is a powerful, solutions-focused vision for a fairer, more secure Australia – one where everyone has a place to call home.

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**Matt Lloyd-Cape** joined the progressive think tank Per Capita in 2019, and in 2022 he founded the Centre for Equitable Housing, where he is the principal fellow. He is a prominent commentator and adviser to the government on housing issues.

**OCTOBER 2026**

Society & culture

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9781760645915

Imprint: La Trobe

University Press

RRP: AU\$34.99,

NZ\$40.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

288pp

# The Country Schoolmaster

A Mystery in 88 Letters

Kate Grenville

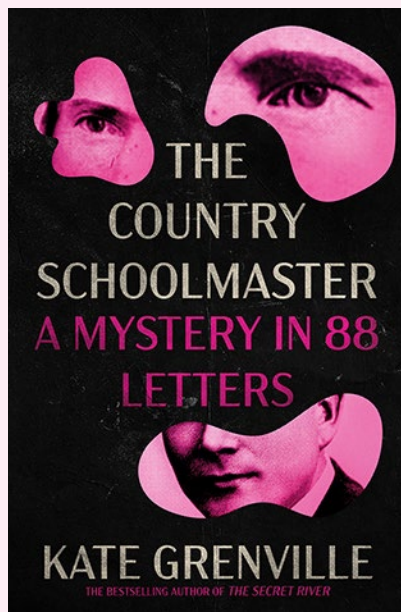
*'I stood there holding the hundred-year-old letter with a feeling that was familiar from other archives, other bulging files of dog-eared paper. It was a blood-running-fast, itchy-palm, eyes-wide-open feeling of stumbling on something. A story ...'*

Rummaging around in the Archives one afternoon, Kate Grenville comes across an innocuous-looking file full of letters about a schoolteacher in country New South Wales. Intrigued, she keeps reading – and discovers a tale far more curious and complex than first appears. Was Joseph Connor savagely beating the students in his care? Or was he the victim of a small-town vendetta? And what went so terribly wrong between him and his daughter?

Ultimately, Grenville simply has to know: was Connor a victim or a villain? Part colonial cold case, part locked-room mystery, part the dance of a writer's imagination among facts and semi-facts,

*The Country Schoolmaster* is a book like no other. In it, the novelist comes to understand the seductive pleasure of story-making, but also its dangerous limitations.

**Kate Grenville** is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. Her international bestseller *The Secret River* was awarded local and overseas prizes and is now a much-loved classic. Grenville's other novels include *The Lieutenant*, *Lilian's Story*, the Orange Prize-winner *The Idea of Perfection* and *A Room Made of Leaves*. Her works of non-fiction include *One Life: My Mother's Story*, *Elizabeth Macarthur's Letters* and, most recently, *Unsettled: A Journey Through Time and Place*.



**OCTOBER 2026**

Australian history

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9781760646257

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$36.99,

NZ\$45.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

288pp



‘This book is an odd little thing. Partly, it’s documents from the official file kept by the Department of Public Instruction about the school in Currabubula, a small village in New South Wales in the 1880s and 1890s. There are letters, reports and transcripts of hearings. At their heart is the teacher at the one-room school and what looked like a campaign to destroy him. There’d been denunciations, accusations, nasty anonymous letters. There’d

been four departmental enquiries and two court cases. He lasted under the onslaught for around ten years. Then he died. Between these documents are my imaginings about them. It’s a zig-zag journey. Was Joseph Connor the villain he was accused of being? Or was he the innocent victim of some kind of small-town vendetta, collateral damage in a war that wasn’t his? The documents are real, but the rest is story.’

*The Country Schoolmaster*

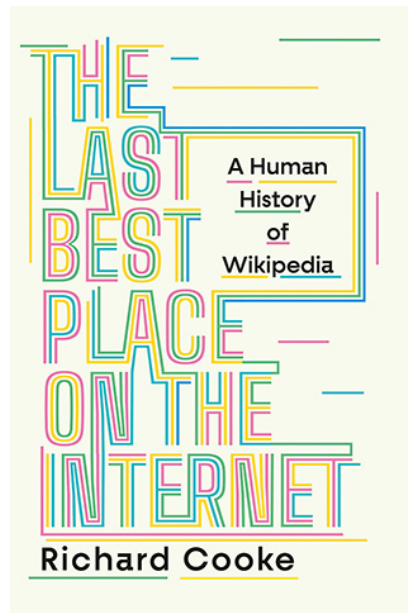


# The Last Best Place on the Internet

A Human History of Wikipedia

Richard Cooke

*A playful and provocative  
exploration of mighty  
Wikipedia: how it was built,  
why it thrived and what we  
lose as its ideals disintegrate*



One of the keystone inventions of the twenty-first century, Wikipedia is the largest repository of human knowledge ever made, with editions in 343 languages read by millions every day – all created by unpaid, mainly amateur and mostly anonymous volunteers.

In this entertaining book, journalist Richard Cooke delves into Wikipedia's fabled creation, its extraordinary success and its profound effects on politics, business, literature and society. He explores the site's shifting role in establishing fact in a time of deep uncertainty about truth and authority; the often hilariously fierce debates between 'Inclusionists' and 'Deletionists' about what is worth knowing and preserving, and who gets to decide; and the great peril Wikipedia faces today from bots, political division and artificial intelligence.

*The Last Best Place on the Internet* is a fascinating journey into the hidden world of one of the most

vital – and most endangered – cultural achievements of our time.

*'Wikipedia is sui generis ... Since its birth twenty-five years ago it has become part of the fabric of everyday life, quietly indivisible from the experience of seeking information, a default with no obvious precedent or competitor. For most of its lifespan, it has enjoyed a unique supremacy – not only an encyclopedia, but the encyclopedia, a reference work to end all others.'*

—Richard Cooke,  
*The Last Best Place on the Internet*

**Richard Cooke** is a journalist and author. His work has appeared internationally in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *WIRED*, and *The Guardian*, among others, and has been selected for *Longform Stories of the Year* and *Best Australian Essays*. He is a contributing editor to *The Monthly* magazine, and was its first US correspondent. He is a former Columnist of the Year, and winner of the June Andrews Award for Arts Journalism and the Walkley Award for Feature Writing.

**OCTOBER 2026**

Social and  
cultural history

9781760643317  
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RRP: AU\$36.99,  
NZ\$45.00  
C PB (234 x 153mm)  
304pp

# Going Digital

The Transformation of the ABC

Margaret Simons

*How Australia's public broadcaster reinvented itself for the digital age*

Today, the ABC offers things that were unimaginable twenty years ago: twenty-four-hour news coverage, an entire app of kids' content, countless podcasts and on-demand TV shows. Before smartphones, broadband and *Bluey*, all this would have sounded impossible. *Going Digital* tells the tumultuous story of how the ABC transformed itself for the digital age, revealing the key players and controversial decisions along the way.

These were the years of *The Chaser* and *Q+A*, endless political interference, and heated debates about what a public broadcaster should be. The ABC's transformation has been remarkable – but unanswered questions remain. Has broader coverage come at the expense of depth? Have politicians

learnt anything from their attempts to intervene? Who really pulls the strings in our public broadcasters?

Drawing on candid interviews with key players and Simons's deep understanding of Australian media, *Going Digital* is a gripping, behind-the-scenes look at one of our most beloved public institutions.

**Margaret Simons** is an award-winning journalist and the author of thirteen books, including biographies of Penny Wong, Tanya Plibersek and Malcolm Fraser; the latter won the Book of the Year and the Douglas Stewart Prize at the 2011 NSW Premier's Literary Awards. She won the 2015 Walkley Award for Social Equity Journalism and has been honoured with several Quill Awards for Journalistic Excellence.

# Going Digital

THE TRANSFORMATION  
OF THE

# ABC

Margaret  
Simons

**NOVEMBER 2026**

Social and  
cultural history

9781760641900  
Imprint: La Trobe  
University Press  
RRP: AU\$39.99,  
NZ\$48.00  
C PB (234 x 153mm)  
368pp

# Origins

## The Making of Australia, 1788–1825

James Boyce

*A remarkable new account of  
Australia's colonial beginnings*

This fascinating book sets aside the clichés of Australian history and asks us to look again.

What really happened when exiled criminals made a home in an occupied and defended country? How were they changed by this new world? What can the first years of settlement tell us about Australia today?

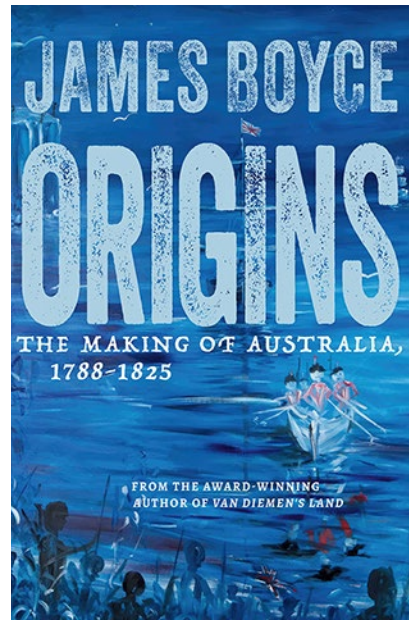
The First Fleet left Britain at the height of the enclosure movement, when traditional rights to communal land were being rapidly extinguished. Many convicts brought those older ideas about land with them, and the first years of the colony saw a distinctive new society develop. Later, it was supplanted by a system favouring free settlers, large land grants and a creed of unstoppable progress.

But the first thirty-five years of the colony tell a different story.

In *Origins*, James Boyce brings this formative period to life. The protagonists include convicts, Aboriginal people, soldiers, governors, and the country itself. The picture that emerges will change how you think about Australia's origins.

---

**James Boyce** is a multi-award-winning historian. His first book, *Van Diemen's Land*, was described by Richard Flanagan as 'the most significant colonial history since *The Fatal Shore*'. He is also the editor of *Inga Clendinnen: selected writings* and the author of *Losing Streak*, *Born Bad*, *Imperial Mud* and *1835*, which was *The Age's* 2012 Book of the Year.



**NOVEMBER 2026**

Australian history

9781760644765

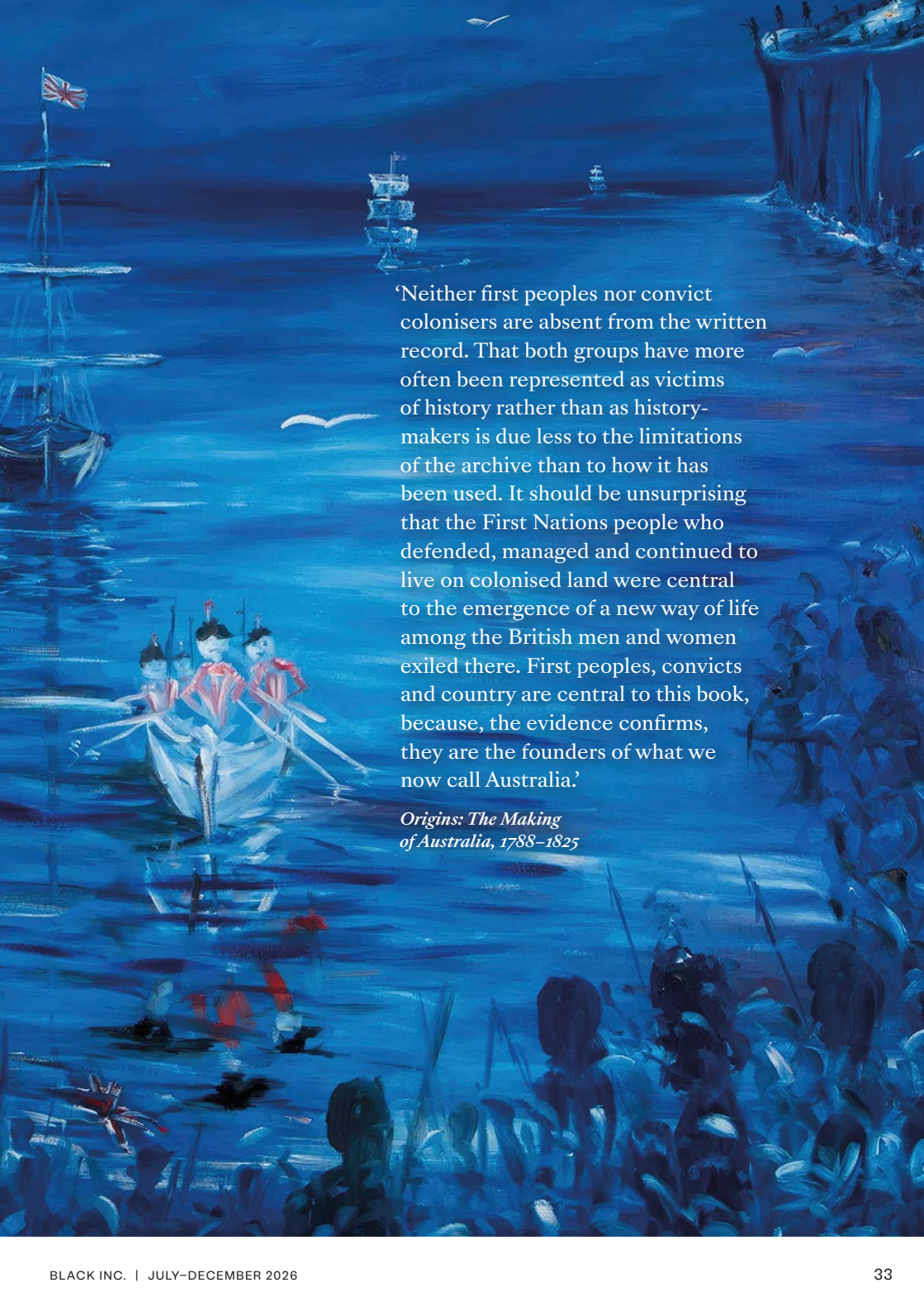
Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$39.99,

NZ\$48.00

C PB (234 x 167mm)

416pp



‘Neither first peoples nor convict colonisers are absent from the written record. That both groups have more often been represented as victims of history rather than as history-makers is due less to the limitations of the archive than to how it has been used. It should be unsurprising that the First Nations people who defended, managed and continued to live on colonised land were central to the emergence of a new way of life among the British men and women exiled there. First peoples, convicts and country are central to this book, because, the evidence confirms, they are the founders of what we now call Australia.’

*Origins: The Making of Australia, 1788–1825*

# Quarterly Essay 104

On One Nation and the rising right

John Birmingham

*What's behind One Nation's surge?*

The rise of the new right in Australia isn't a sudden eruption. In this brilliant essay, John Birmingham gives us the deep history and the present moment. Using personal stories, insights from political insiders and overarching analysis, he shows how the right has found a story to explain everything. Simple, visceral, wrong in all sorts of ways, but coherent.

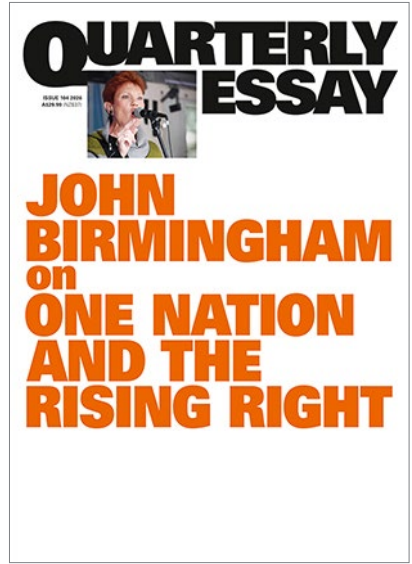
Birmingham charts the political earthquake as One Nation shatters the Liberal Party, and examines where Australian politics goes from here.

---

**John Birmingham's** books include the cult memoir *He Died with a Felafel in His Hand*, *Leviathan: The Unauthorised Biography of Sydney* and several fiction series. He is the author of two previous Quarterly Essays, *Appeasing Jakarta* and *A Time for War*.

**NOVEMBER 2026**  
Politics & government

—  
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Imprint: Quarterly  
Essay  
RRP: AU\$29.99,  
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PB (234 x 167mm)  
112pp



# Winner of The Age Fiction Book of the Year 2026

## Winner of the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction 2026

Shortlisted for the 2026 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards' Fiction Prize

'This book is written with such tenderness and clarity, you'll be instantly drawn into the suffering and joy of these lives.'

—THE GUARDIAN

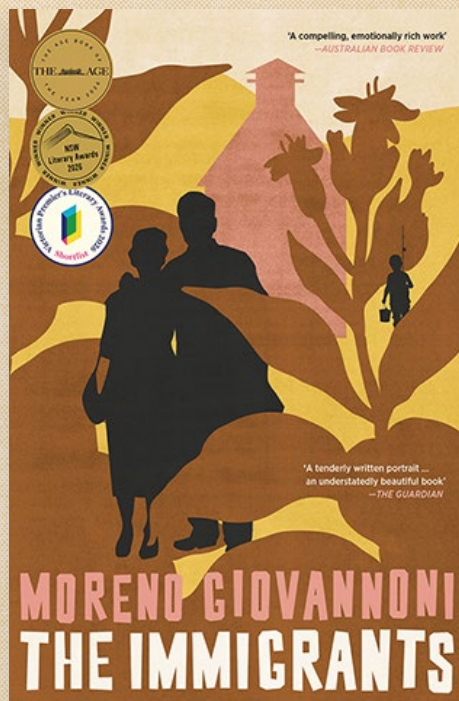
'A masterful piece of literature that captures the reality of immigration to Australia for many Italians. It presents all its convoluted dynamics, emotions and consequences of displacement, identity, loss and hope.'

—IL GLOBO

'Giovannoni writes about his subjects with such care, tenderness, and gentle humour ... *The Immigrants*, a compelling, emotionally rich work, offers a poetic and at times moving treatment of a little-known part of Australian history.' —AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW

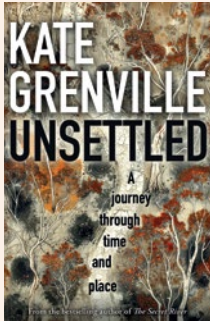
'This delicious autobiographical novel about Italian migrants in Victoria's tobacco-growing country starts, quite literally, with a bang and charms with its large cast of distinct characters, tender wit and sensitivity.'

—THE AGE



**MORENO GIOVANNONI IS THE AUTHOR OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED *THE FIREFLIES OF AUTUMN* AND A FREELANCE TRANSLATOR. HIS ESSAY 'THE PERCHERON' WAS SELECTED FOR THE BEST AUSTRALIAN ESSAYS IN 2014. HE WAS THE INAUGURAL WINNER OF THE DEBORAH CASS PRIZE FOR WRITING IN 2016.**

# Best of Black Inc.



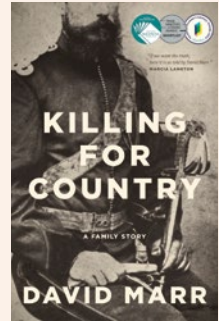
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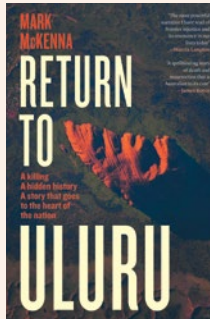
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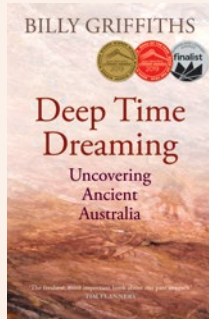
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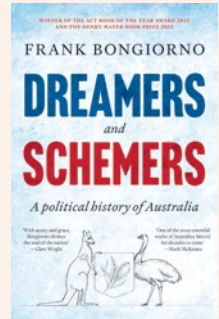
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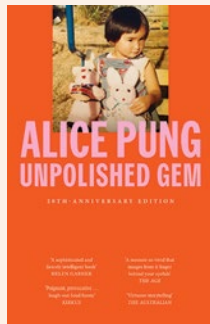
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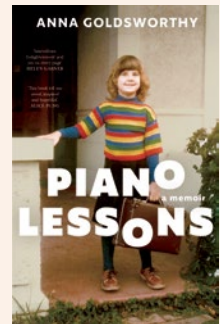
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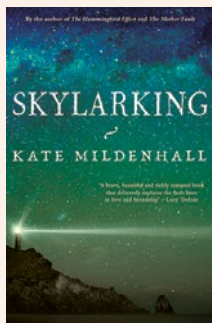
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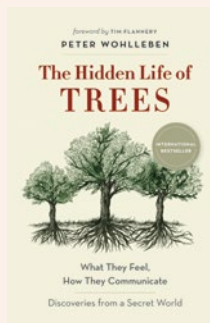
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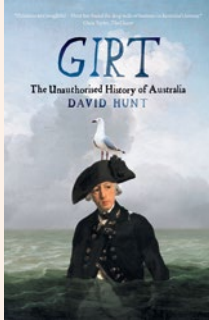


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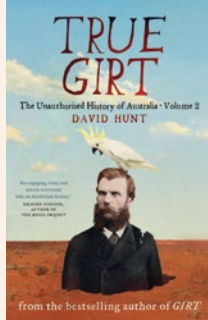


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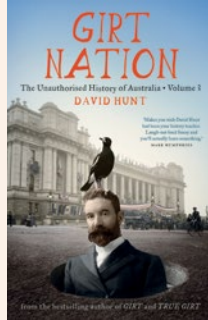
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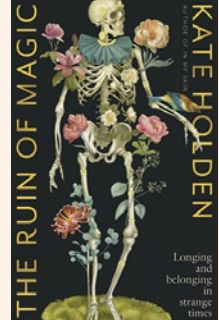
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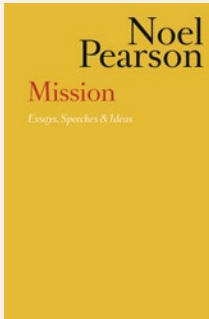
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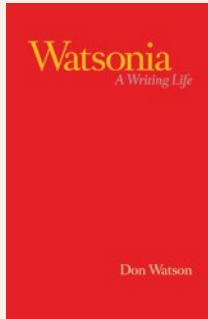
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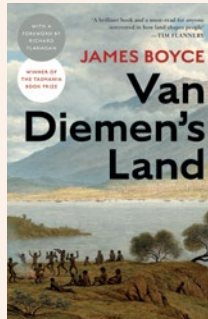
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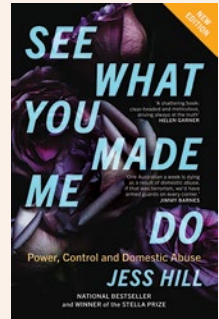
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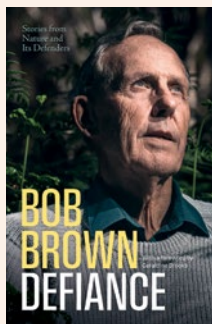
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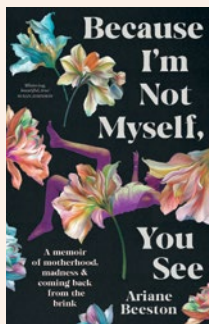
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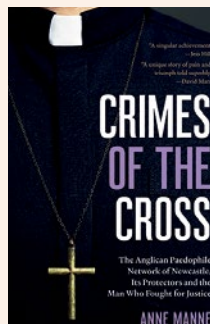
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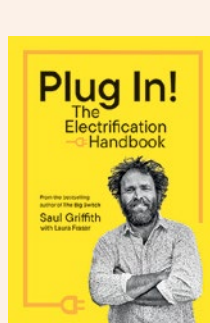
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