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A mesmerising novel of two sisters on a Pacific Northwest island whose lives are upended by an unexpected visitor — a tale of family, obsession, and a mysterious creature in the woods, by the celebrated, bestselling author of *Disappearing Earth*.

They were sisters and they would last past the end of time.

Sam and her sister, Elena, dream of another life. On the island off the coast of Washington where they were born and raised, they and their mother struggle to survive. Sam works long days on the ferry that delivers wealthy mainlanders to their vacation homes while Elena bartends at the local golf club, but even together they can’t earn enough to get by, stirring their frustration about the limits that shape their existence.

Then one night on the boat, Sam spots a bear swimming the dark waters of the channel. Where is it going? What does it want? When the bear turns up by their home, Sam, terrified, is more convinced than ever that it’s time to leave the island. But Elena responds differently to the massive beast. Enchanted by its presence, she throws into doubt the plan to escape and puts their long-held dream in danger.

A story about the bonds of sisterhood and the mysteries of the animals that live among us — and within us — *Bear* is a propulsive, mythical, rich novel from one of the most acclaimed young writers in America.

‘The beautiful and haunting latest from Phillips (*Disappearing Earth*) ... The bear provides a vehicle for the author’s masterful characterisation, as the sisters clash over their perception of the grizzly’s meaning in their lives, and for the increasingly suspenseful plot. Phillips prefaces the story with an excerpt from the Brothers Grimm fairy tale “Snow-White and Rose-Red”, about two sisters who play with a bear, which sets a simultaneously playful and ominous tone and contrasts powerfully with the novel’s supremely executed realism. This is brilliant.’ *Publishers Weekly*, starred review
Brothers and Ghosts

A young woman, torn between two cultures, belonging to neither. A family, torn apart by a war they had no choice about.

Kiều, calls herself Kim because it’s easier for Europeans to pronounce. She knows little about her Vietnamese family’s history until she receives a Facebook message from her estranged uncle in America, telling her that her grandmother is dying. Her father and uncle haven’t spoken since the end of the Vietnam War. One brother supported the Vietcong, while the other sided with the Americans.

When Kiều and her parents travel to America to join the rest of the family in California for the funeral, questions relating to their past — to what has been suppressed — resurface and demand to be addressed.

‘A groundbreaking work in German literature, Phảm’s novel marks a seminal accomplishment that tells the dignified, thorough, and epic story of a Vietnamese family through clear, gem-like sentences and unflinching observations. With Phảm’s vision, nothing is left unturned and all things are salvaged and lost at once. A courageous and bold achievement by a bright new voice.’ Ocean Vuong

‘Illuminating and unforgettable, Khuê Phảm’s Brothers and Ghosts is a house that reveals secrets behind each door: a country torn apart by colonialism and civil war, a family divided between loyalty and freedom.’ Juhea Kim, author of Beasts of a Little Land

‘A powerful novel about the paths we take, the secrets we hide, and the familial duty that binds us. Khuê Phảm coaxes out the stories that live in darkness and the light she shines is captivating. Gorgeously written, Brothers and Ghosts is a book that stays with you long after you close it.’ Eric Nguyen, author of Things We Lost to the Water

KHUÊ PHAM is an award-winning Vietnamese-German writer. A graduate from the LSE, she freelanced for The Guardian and NPR’s Berlin bureau before becoming an editor at Die Zeit. She was nominated for Germany’s version of the Pulitzer Prize for co-writing an investigation into the 2019 Essex lorry deaths. Her novel Brothers and Ghosts is inspired by the story of her Vietnamese family.
ADAM FORREST KAY studied classics and physics at the University of Colorado, and did his graduate work in England and France. He is the recipient of many scholarships and academic distinctions. He has two PhDs, one in literature from the University of Cambridge and the other in mathematics from the University of Oxford. His maths dissertation discussed the possibility of three-dimensional hydrodynamic quantum analogues. Adam’s current research interests centre around realist models of quantum mechanics, relativity theory, and partial differential equations, particularly variable coefficient wave equations.

An expert physicist argues for a revolutionary new understanding of quantum mechanics.

The received wisdom in quantum physics is that, at the deepest levels of reality, there are no actual causes for atomic events. This idea led to the outlandish belief that quantum objects — indeed, reality itself — aren’t real unless shaped by human measurement. Einstein mocked this idea, asking whether his bed spread out across his room unless he looked at it. And yet it remains one of the most influential ideas in science and our culture.

In Escape from Shadow Physics, Adam Forrest Kay takes up Einstein’s torch: reality isn’t mysterious or dependent on human measurement, but predictable and independent of us. At the heart of his argument is groundbreaking research with little drops of oil. These droplets behave as particles do in the long-overlooked quantum theory of pilot waves; crucially, they showcase quantum behavior while being described by classical physics.

What if the original doubters of our quantum orthodoxy (not least Einstein himself) were onto something? What if pilot wave theory was right all along? In that case, our whole story of twentieth-century physics is topsy-turvy, and we must give up the idea that reality is simply too weird to grasp. Weird it may still be, but a true understanding of nature now seems within our reach.

‘In the bouncing groove of an oil droplet, Adam Forrest Kay finds a new way to look at quantum mechanics — one that replaces randomness and mystery with new knowledge. Supported by a brilliantly told history and philosophy of physics, this book will change how you think about the field’s past. And it may just set a new path for its future.’

Stephon Alexander, author of Fear of a Black Universe
Joshua Santospirito  The Islands Where We Left Our Ancestors

The beautifully hand-drawn true story of artist Joshua Santospirito’s visit to the Aeolian Islands of Italy with his parents to seek out past connections and family roots.

Joshua and his father hope to locate the burial place of Joshua’s great-great-grandfather on the island of Salina. But it’s not always so easy to find the past you’re looking for, nor to travel with your parents.

As Joshua learns more about the sun-drenched volcanic archipelago, its people, and their history, he also explores the mysteries of family — and the magic of creating your own place in the world.

This is a tale of migration and return, of the rise to stardom of actress Ingrid Bergman, of the cheeky wind god Aeolus, of ancestry, place, and belonging, and of so much more. Told from Joshua’s unique and charming perspective, there is something here for everyone.

JOSHUA SANTOSPIRITO is a multimedia artist, musician, and comics author living in a veggie patch in Lutruwita/Tasmania. His two previous graphic novels are The Long Weekend in Alice Springs and Swallows.
The Autist’s Guide to the Galaxy
navigating the world of ‘normal’ people

A playful guide to understanding the ways of ‘normal people’, The Autist’s Guide to the Galaxy flips our usual scripts about neurodiversity.

Following on from her internationally successful memoir, The Autists, Clara Törnvall has written a fun, comprehensive, and accessible explanation of neurotypical, or ‘normal’, behaviour. Full of facts, tips, and tests, and developed with input from other autists, this book places the difficulties autists face in the context of a world built for the neurotypical majority. It will help neurodiverse people — and their families, friends, and loved ones — navigate this world, nurture stronger relationships, and thrive.

Praise for The Autists:
‘Törnvall has written an important, illuminating first book, one that deserves to sit alongside the best insider accounts of autism ... [The Autists] should be required reading for all parents, partners, friends and colleagues of anyone on the autism spectrum, as well as a road map for autistic women navigating the neurotypical world.’ James Cook, Times Literary Supplement

‘Even if you ought to avoid hyping the autistic as superheroes, Törnvall shows that conformity to the norm is a ludicrous waste of the power in these beautiful brains.’ Dagens Nyheter

‘Törnvall was diagnosed as autistic at the age of forty-two, and The Autists takes her own experience as a lens through which to explore the phenomena and experiences of autistic women more generally. Its research is wide-ranging ... I was particularly delighted by Törnvall’s chapter on language, “Too Much Faith in Words”.’ Caitlin McGregor, Sydney Review of Books
Follow Your Gut
a story from the microbes that make you

Meet the ecosystem inside you …

A timid *Bifidobacterium* named Biffy is forced to leave their family and become part of a new community, in the gut of a newborn human baby.

*Follow Your Gut* is a comic that ate a biology textbook. It’s an epic adventure set over the first three years of a new life, exploring one of the most important relationships you will ever have — the one with your gut microbiome.

Created by artists, scientists, and educators, this story is for anyone who’s curious about the human–microbe symbiosis, and what all those trillions of bacteria are doing down there in your intestines!

Inspired by the latest research, *Follow Your Gut* includes a fascinating and detailed appendix that explains the amazing science behind the story.

‘We fell in love with Biffy, the adorable *Bifidobacterium*. We also learnt about the scientific process of growing up, and the not-so-secret universe that we have inside us!’ — Kira and Catherine, Year 7, University High School, Melbourne

‘A wildly entertaining science lesson that will change how you see your own body.’ — Dr Nat Bannan, high school science teacher

Praise for *The Invisible War*:

‘What a great way to learn some pretty extensive science.’
David Suzuki, scientist, environmentalist, and broadcaster

‘A candidate for the first truly modern, 21st-century graphic novel.’ Dorion Sagan, author

‘A touching, harrowing story … rivetingly interesting.’
*The Canberra Times*

BRIONY BARR is a visual artist who regularly collaborates on a diverse range of interdisciplinary projects. DR GREGORY CROCETTI is a microbial ecologist, science educator, and writer. AILSA WILD is an author for children and adults, with a history of circus performance. DR LISA STINSON is a perinatal microbial ecologist at the University of Western Australia. BEN HUTCHINGS is co-founder of Melbourne’s first comic studio, Squishface Comic Studio, where he works as a comic book publisher, animator, and coin designer. Together, they create books, interdisciplinary workshops, exhibitions, and installations that draw on the microscopic world.

RRP: $29.99
234 x 168mm paperback, 240pp
ISBN: 9781761380891
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Mara Kardas-Nelson

We Are Not Able to Live in the Sky
the seductive promise of microfinance

A deeply reported work of journalism that explores the promises and perils of global microfinance, told through the eyes of those who work in small-scale lending and of women borrowers in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

In the mid-1970s, Muhammad Yunus, an American-trained Bangladeshi economist, met a poor female stoolmaker who needed money to expand her business. In an act known as the beginning of microfinance, Yunus lent $27 to 42 women, hoping small credit would help them to pull themselves out of poverty. Soon, Yunus’s Grameen Bank was born, and, very small but often high-interest loans for poor people took off. In 2006, Yunus and the Grameen Bank won the Nobel Peace Prize.

But there’s a problem with this story. There are mounting concerns that these small loans are as likely to bury poor people in debt as they are to pull them from poverty, with borrowers facing consequences such as jail time and forced land sales. Hundreds have even reportedly committed suicide.

What happened? Did microfinance take a wrong turn, or was microfinance flawed from the beginning?

We Are Not Able to Live in the Sky is a story about unintended consequences, blind optimism, and the decades-long ramifications of seemingly small policy choices, rooted in the stories of women borrowers in Sierra Leone. Kardas-Nelson asks: What happens when a single, financially focused solution to global inequity ignores the real drivers of poverty? Who stands to benefit and, more importantly, who gets left behind?

‘[An] eye-opening debut exposé ... Kardas-Nelson’s crisp characterisations and novelistic storytelling bring clarity to a sprawling, shadowy history. The result is a devastating look at a disaster set into motion by misguided American policymakers.’ Publishers Weekly, starred review
VERONICA GORRIE is a Gunai/Kurnai woman who lives and writes in Victoria. Her first book, *Black and Blue* (2021), won the 2022 Victorian Premier’s Prize for Literature and the 2022 Victorian Premier’s Literary Award for Indigenous Writing, as well as being shortlisted for the 2022 Douglas Stewart Prize for Nonfiction and the 2022 ABIA Small Publishers’ Book of the Year. She is also the Executive Officer of the grassroots Aboriginal organisation Pay the Rent.

*When Cops Are Criminals* examines the widespread problem of police brutality and corruption from the perspectives of those who understand it in depth. Pulling together the accounts of survivors, campaigners, and academics, it explores different forms of criminal behaviour by police, the factors that contribute to it, the impact it has on victims, and the challenges of holding perpetrators accountable.

Told with candour, honesty, bravery, and rage, these stories will challenge readers to reflect on the institutions that so many people take for granted. Whose interests are they really serving? And where can people turn when the institutions that are supposed to protect them are the ones doing the damage?

**Praise for *Black and Blue***:

‘Gorrie’s distinctly Indigenous storytelling makes us feel like we are sitting with her by the fire in the backyard listening to the resounding immediacy of her words. Her warmth and love and care for her readers is felt throughout the book … *[Black and Blue]* is especially crucial at this moment in time. It challenges us to think about power and society, and the possibility of changing the world we live in.’ 2022 Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards Judges’ Comments
The Chinese Phantom
the hunt for the world’s most dangerous arms dealer

A gripping, real-life thriller following the authors’ attempt to uncover the truth about one of the world’s most wanted men.

Karl Lee, alias Li Fangwei, plays a key role in the secret struggle between the world powers, bypassing Western sanctions to supply dictators with the weapons they need to wipe out their neighbouring countries — or even to trigger a third world war.

For almost two decades, intelligence agencies have been hunting for Karl Lee. The FBI has put a five-million-dollar bounty on his head, but nobody has been able to catch him. Now, four award-winning investigative journalists have set out to find him. Following the routes of his deliveries and his money, the authors track down his companies in China and uncover his network of shell companies. During their investigation, they get embroiled deeper and deeper in the games of international secret services and realise that Karl Lee is just a pawn in a much bigger game of modern warfare and international espionage.

‘A thrilling and globe-spanning account of the search for the world’s most wanted man. The authors delve into the murky worlds of arms smuggling, sanctions-busting and espionage. In their hunt for the Chinese phantom, they encounter suspicious police, atomic experts, and former spies, as well as a perplexing wall of silence from the Israeli and US governments. The book delves into international rivalries, and explores a shifting game of realpolitik featuring Beijing and Washington, Tehran and Moscow, London and Munich. Lucid, compelling, and vividly written.’ Luke Harding, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Invasion

‘This gripping piece of investigative journalism follows its authors’ attempts to uncover the truth about one of the world’s most dangerous men and his involvement in Iran’s ballistic missile programme … The Chinese Phantom invokes a parallel world of deceit and lies … This is a thrilling and eloquent read which will appeal to a wide audience.’ New Books in German

The four authors are prize-winning investigative journalists.

CHRISTOPH GIESEN is the China correspondent of the German magazine Der Spiegel.

PHILIPP GRÜLL is a weapons expert and editor at Germany’s leading public broadcaster ARD.

FREDERIK OBERMAIER and BASTIAN OBERMAYER both won the Pulitzer Prize for their ground-breaking reporting on the Panama Papers.
Kylie Mirmohamadi

Diving, Falling

It’s never too late to rewrite your own story.

For years, Leila Whittaker has been the mediator in her family. She smoothes ruffled feathers between her sons; endures the volatile moods of their father, the acclaimed Australian artist Ken Black; and even swallows the bitter pill of Ken’s endless affairs. All this, for the quiet hum of creative freedom her marriage provides. Or so she tells herself.

When Ken dies, leaving his artist’s estate to their two sons, and the pointed amount of sixty-nine thousand dollars to his muse, Anita, Leila decides she’s had enough. It’s time to seek some peace (and pleasure) of her own...

_Diving, Falling_ is an elegant, exhilarating journey through grief, betrayal, and the intoxicating rediscovery of joy. Ripe with wickedly wry observations, unashamedly bold and sexy, it examines the calculations and sacrifices women make to keep the peace, escape their pasts, and find the agency to pursue their own passions.

KYLIE MIRMOHAMADI is a writer and academic whose work and research spans domestic Australian landscapes, online fan fiction, and 19th-century English literature. She has a PhD in History and is currently an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in English and Creative Writing at La Trobe University. Kylie lives with her family in Melbourne where she often finds ideas for writing when walking among the tree-lined creeks of her inner suburb with her poodle. Kylie has published widely in the academic sector, most recently on the long afterlives of Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters. She was the recipient of a Wheeler Centre Hot Desk Fellowship in 2022 and her unpublished manuscripts have been highly commended in the Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards and shortlisted for the Dorothy Hewett Award (2020). _Diving, Falling_ is her first novel.
Nature, Culture, and Inequality

An insightful exploration of the nature of inequality.

In his new work, Thomas Piketty explores how social inequality manifests itself very differently depending on the society and epoch in which it arises. History and culture play a central role, inequality being strongly linked to various socio-economic, political, civilisational, and religious developments. So it is culture in the broadest sense that makes it possible to explain the diversity, extent, and structure of the social inequality that we observe every day. Piketty briefly and concisely presents a lively synthesis of his work, taking up such diverse topics as education, inheritance, taxes, and the climate crisis, and provides exciting food for thought for a highly topical debate: Does natural inequality exist?

Praise for Capital and Ideology:
‘The book packed with fascinating detail and vast quantities of skilfully assembled data; it is written (and translated, by Arthur Goldhammer) in an accessible, conversational tone ... he gives us a systematic examination of inequality across time and place, and of the ideas the powerful have used to justify it.’ Geoff Mann, London Review of Books

‘Spenglerian in scope, Piketty’s critique reaches far back in history and across the globe ... It’s an admirable corrective to the usual Eurocentrism of Western economists ... Piketty has modified his thinking since his previous opus. Rather than imply that rising inequality is a problem inherent in capitalism, he now suggests that the levels of inequality we get are the ones we countenance — that they’re entirely a matter of political and ideological choices.’ Idrees Kahloon, The New Yorker
Dahlia de la Cerda
Translated by Julia Sanches & Heather Cleary

DAHLIA DE LA CERDA is a Mexican writer and activist. She has a BA in Philosophy and won the Comala Young National Short Story Award for Reservoir Bitches. She is also the author of the essay ‘Feminismo sin cuarto propio’, which is included in the anthology Tsunami 2, and co-founder of the feminist organisation Morras Help Morras. Her short story ‘The Smile’ was included in the first issue of Astra Magazine, and Reservoir Bitches is currently being developed as a series by Amazon Studios and Perro Azul.

Reservoir Bitches

A debut linked story collection of gritty, streetwise, and wickedly funny fiction from Mexico.

Life’s a bitch. That’s why you gotta rattle her cage, even if she’s foaming at the mouth.

In the linked stories of Reservoir Bitches, thirteen Mexican women prod the bitch that is Life as they fight, sew, skirt, cheat, cry, and lie their way through their tangled circumstances. From the all-powerful daughter of a cartel boss to the victim of trans-femicide, from a houseful of spinster seamstresses to a socialite who supports her politician husband by faking Indigenous roots, these women spit on their own reduction and invent new ways to survive, telling their stories in bold, unapologetic voices. At once social critique and black comedy, Reservoir Bitches is a raucous debut from one of Mexico’s most thrilling new writers.

‘This book has the force of an ocean gully: it sucks you in, it drags you through the mud and it cleans you in equal measure.’
Andrea Abreu, author of Dogs of Summer

‘A book of Biblical proportions contained in 176 pages. A small monument to transgressive, tough, soft, romantic, painful literature. A series of stories that come alive independently, but that also work together, intertwined, creating a world that resembles the capital, but that could also be any centre or periphery in Mexico... Each of these stories hits you right in the eye, in the stomach, close to the kidney, in the groin if you want. While the author beats us up, we revel in pleasure. Laughter. Because the prose is delicate despite everything. Because humour thrives among narco-socialites, contract killers, wannabe high society women, and influencers who worry about how many likes they have on Instagram.’
Gerardo Lima Molina, author of Megaloceros

‘The brutal, fascinating, and truthful stories in Reservoir Bitches describe without self-indulgence the highly complex reality of young women in Mexico.’
Berna González Harbour, El País

RRP: $24.99
198 x 129mm paperback, 176pp
ISBN: 9781761380419

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Jan Brokken
Translated by David Doherty

**Baltic Souls**
*fate in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania*

A monumental journey through Baltic history and culture, in which we encounter well-known personalities and forgotten ones, and a disconcerting picture of Europe in the twentieth century.

From 1999 to 2010, Jan Brokken explored life stories in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The result was his masterly *Baltic Souls*, available here for the first time in English. Brokken uncovered the stories of famous artists and writers such as Mark Rothko, Sergei Eisenstein, Hannah Arendt, and Jacques Lipchitz, who were all born in the regions bordering the Baltic Sea before leaving to build their work abroad, spreading a bit of the Baltic soul across Europe and America.

Less well known were the stories of people such as the Rozes and their family bookstore in Riga, or the von Wrangels, the ultimate descendants of the Baltic barons. Or the story of the titanic struggle that violist Gidon Kremer fought with his father in Riga, who was burdened by the death of thirty-five family members in concentration camps. Or the story of Loreta Asanavičiūtė, who was run over by a Russian tank in 1991.

It is this melancholy imbued with fatalism, this vitality forged by the upheavals of history, this appetite for reading, music, and art, that enriches the portraits painted by Jan Brokken.

Conducted in the style of a travel diary where chance encounters and biographical sketches mingle, *Baltic Souls* makes us feel the cruelty and violence of an era, but also the tenderness and solidarity of an entire people, united across borders.

‘A masterfully written, rousing account.’ **Kunststof Radio 1**

‘Jan Brokken portrays twenty-seven Baltic souls: he really brings them to life by shining an intense and enchanting light upon them.’ **NRC Handelsblad**
Zazie Todd
Foreword by
Cat Warren

Bark!
the science of helping your anxious, fearful, or reactive dog

The must-have guide to addressing anxious, fearful, or reactive behaviours in your dog through positive reinforcement, from certified dog trainer and animal behaviourist Zazie Todd.

Is your dog showing signs of fear, anxiety, or reactivity, such as biting, food guarding, shyness, or aggressive barking? You’re not alone. Close to 75% of dogs struggle with fear-based behaviours, and require our support and understanding to feel safe and secure.

In Bark!, Zazie Todd provides solutions for these behaviours. Decoding the latest canine science, she shows readers how to address the root cause of your dog’s fears, with expert advice and practical tips on:

- How to tackle common canine fears, such as loud noises, the vet, separation anxiety, and other dogs.
- How to manage a dog’s natural fear responses through positive reinforcement.
- How to keep your dog, yourself, and others safe when they are fearful or reactive.
- How to create safe havens for your dog, and make yourself a secure base for them no matter where they are.

Compassionate, practical, and rooted in science, Bark! helps dog owners understand the many factors that might be causing fear within your dog, and how you can help them lead a safe and happy life.

Praise for Wag:
‘A must-have guide to improving your dog’s life.’
Modern Dog Magazine

‘The author’s evidence-based analysis simplifies the science and reduces essential elements into practical, replicable activities geared toward enriching a dog’s life.’ Library Journal, starred review
The Gates of Gaza
a story of betrayal, survival, and hope in Israel’s borderlands

The gripping, true story of how leading Israeli journalist Amir Tibon, along with his wife and their two young children, were rescued on 7 October 2023 by Tibon’s father — an incredible tale of survival that also reveals the tensions and failures that led to Hamas’s attacks that day.

On that fateful day, Tibon and his wife were awakened by mortar rounds exploding near their home in Kibbutz Nahal Oz, a progressive Israeli settlement along the Gaza border. Soon, they were holding their two young daughters in the family’s reinforced safe room, urging them not to cry while they all listened to the gunfire from Hamas attackers outside their windows. With his mobile phone battery running low, Amir texted his father: ‘They’re here.’

Some 45 miles to the north, on the shores of Tel Aviv, Amir’s parents saw the news at the same time as they received Amir’s note. Immediately, they jumped in their car and raced toward Nahal Oz, armed only with a pistol — but intent on saving their family at all costs.

In The Gates of Gaza, Tibon tells his family’s harrowing story, describing their terrifying ordeal — and the bravery that led to their rescue — alongside the histories of the place they call home and the systems of power that have kept them and their neighbours in Gaza in harm’s way for decades. With sensitivity, and drawing on Israeli and Palestinian sources, Tibon offers an unsparing but ultimately hopeful view of this seemingly intractable conflict and its global reverberations.
Gifted

A moving portrayal of a troubled mother–daughter relationship, shortlisted for Japan’s prestigious Akutagawa Prize.

In 2008, the unnamed narrator of Gifted is working as a hostess and living in Tokyo’s nightlife district. One day, her estranged mother, who is seriously ill, suddenly turns up at her door.

As the mother approaches the end of her life, the two women must navigate their strained relationship, while the narrator also reckons with events happening in her own life, including the death of a close friend — all under the bright lights of Tokyo’s ‘sleepless town’, Kabukichō.

In sharp, elegant prose, and based on the author’s own experiences as a sex worker, Gifted heralds the breakthrough of an exciting new literary talent.

‘Demonstrates that death is the only way forward. Oozes with maternal cruelty.’ Yoko Ogawa, author of The Memory Police

SUZUMI SUZUKI is an acclaimed Japanese sociologist and columnist. She graduated from Keio University majoring in Environment and Information Studies, and later received a master’s degree from Tokyo University. She worked as an adult video actress before becoming a journalist for Nikkei Inc. She is also the author of Sell Your Body, and It’s Goodbye (2016), Flowers for Love and the Womb (2017), A Prostitute’s Bookshelf (2022), and Letters of Correspondence (2021), co-written with Japan’s most acclaimed feminist scholar Chizuko Ueno. Gifted is her debut novel.

SUZUMI SUZUKI
Translated by Allison Markin Powell

Gifted

SUZUMI SUZUKI

Translated by Allison Markin Powell
A thrilling exposé recounting how members of Opus Dei — a secretive, ultra-conservative Catholic sect — pushed its radical agenda within the Church and around the globe, using billions of dollars siphoned from one of the world’s largest banks.

For over half a century, Banco Popular was one of the most profitable banks in the world — until one day, in 2017, when the Spanish bank suddenly collapsed overnight. When investigative journalist Gareth Gore was dispatched to report on the story, he expected to find yet another case of unbridled capitalist ambition gone wrong. Instead, he uncovered decades of deception that hid one of the most brazen cases of corporate pillaging in history, perpetrated by a group of men sworn to celibacy and self-flagellation who had secretly controlled Popular and abused their positions there to help spread Opus Dei to every corner of the world.

Drawing on unparalleled access to bank records and exclusive interviews with whistle-blowers from within Opus Dei, Gore reveals how money from the bank was used to lure unsuspecting recruits — some of them children — into a life of servitude. He also tracks the ascent of Opus Dei around the globe, exposing its role in bankrolling right-wing causes such as the US Supreme Court’s overturning of Roe v. Wade.

Documenting Opus Dei’s secret history for the first time, this thrilling work of investigative storytelling raises important questions about the dark forces that shape our society.
**Jessica Friedmann**

**Twenty-Two Impressions**  
notes from the major arcana

A poetic new essay collection in which the symbols of Renaissance-era tarot brush up against life in a changing world.

In 2018, author Jessica Friedmann bought her first deck of tarot cards, a facsimile copy of the Tarot de Marseille. This 15th-century deck, with its unfamiliar images, sparked a deep immersion in the art, symbols, myths, and misrepresentations of Renaissance-era tarot.

Over the years that followed, and as tarot became a part of her daily rhythm, Friedmann’s life in country New South Wales was touched by floods and by drought, by bushfires and the pandemic, creating an environment in which the only constant was change.

Twenty-Two Impressions: notes from the major arcana uses the Tarot de Marseille as a touchstone for these years, blending historical research, art history, and critical insights with personal reflections. In these essays, Friedmann demonstrates how the cards of the major arcana can be used as a lens through which to examine the unexpectedness — and subtle beauty — of 21st-century life.

**Praise for Things That Helped:**

‘Things That Helped is a beautiful book — heartfelt, fiercely intelligent, and urgent. It is a powerful affirmation of friendship, family, art, and love, and how these things might shape a life, and give it strength.’ **Fiona Wright, author of Small Acts of Disappearance**

‘Jessica Friedmann has left safety behind and walked into something vast — a self, a world, on the verge of unravelling yet exhilarating and full of love. This book runs deep and wide. It’s alive with arresting images, with thoughts too big, sometimes too dangerous, to pin down.’ **Maria Tumarkin, author of Axiomatic**

Born in 1987, JESSICA FRIEDMANN is a writer and editor. Her first essay collection, Things That Helped, was published by Scribe (2017) and FSG (2018).
Josh Bornstein

Working for the Brand
how corporations are destroying free speech

Josh Bornstein asks how our major corporations have come to exercise repressive control over the lives of their employees, and explores what can be done to repair the greatest threat to democracy — the out-of-control corporation.

When you go to work, you agree to exchange your labour in exchange for your pay packet, right? Actually, you may not realise it, but you are also selling your rights to free speech and to participate in democracy. Welcome to corporate cancel culture, a burgeoning phenomenon that is routinely ignored in debates about free speech. If you work for a large company, it will not allow you to say or do anything that harms its brand — at or outside work. If you transgress and attract controversy — whether for cracking a joke, a Facebook like, or a political post on TikTok, you can be shamed, sacked, and blacklisted.

In the twenty-first century, major corporations have become the most powerful institution in the world — more powerful than many nations. That unchecked, anti-democratic power is reflected in the gaming of the political system, the weakening of governments, and the repressive control of the lives of employees. While their behaviour has deteriorated, corporations have invested heavily in ethically washed brands, claiming to be saving the planet and doing good. As Josh Bornstein argues, we would not tolerate a government that censored, controlled, and punished us in this way, so why do we meekly accept the growing authoritarianism of the companies that we work for?
Russ Radcliffe

Best Australian Political Cartoons 2024

The year in politics as observed by Australia’s funniest and most perceptive political cartoonists.

Featuring Dean Alston, Peter Broelman, Andrew Dyson, John Farmer, First Dog on the Moon, Matt Golding, Fiona Katauskas, Mark Knight, Jon Kudelka, Johannes Leak, Sean Leahy, Alan Moir, David Pope, David Rowe, John Spooner, Andrew Weldon, Cathy Wilcox, and more ...

RUSS RADCLIFFE created the annual Best Australian Political Cartoons series in 2003. His other books include: Man of Steel: a cartoon history of the Howard years in 2007; Dirt Files: a decade of Australian political cartoons in 2013; and My Brilliant Career: Malcolm Turnbull, a political life in cartoons in 2016. Russ has edited collections from some of Australia’s finest political cartoonists, including Matt Golding, Judy Horacek, Bill Leak, Alan Moir, Bruce Petty, John Spooner and David Rowe, and curated several exhibitions including Moments of Truth, Dirt Files, and Suppositories of Wisdom. In 2013 Russ was awarded the Australian Cartoonists Association’s Jim Russell Award for his contribution to Australian cartooning.
Forty Days in the Jungle
behind the survival and rescue of four children lost in the Amazon

An extraordinary, gripping survival story that also reveals the struggles for social justice of the Indigenous people of Colombia and the Amazon.

In June 2023, four children — Lesly, Soleiny, Tien, and Crispin — were found alive in the Colombian Amazon, forty days after the aircraft they were travelling in had crashed and killed the three adults on board (the pilot, the co-pilot, and the children’s mother). The eldest child, thirteen-year-old Lesly, took the decision to leave her dying mother, gather her siblings — aged 9, 5, and 11 months — and head into the jungle. She kept herself and her siblings alive for 40 days and nights, finally emerging when heavily armed soldiers closed in, yelling her name above the sound of barking dogs.

Forty Days in the Jungle follows the compelling characters involved in the crash and what followed: Maria Fatima Valencia, the children’s grandmother, who had taught Lesly how to survive in the jungle; General Pedro Sánchez who led the rescue team; the shady figure of Manuel Ranoque, the father of the two youngest children; and even the Colombian president, Gustavo Petro.

But there is much more to this than an extraordinary survival story. Interwoven chapters address key questions about Colombian and Latin American history, society, and political economy — the answers to which shed light on the socio-political state of much of the world today. Colombia’s problems mirror, in many ways, the rising Global South in its twenty-first-century struggles against colonial histories and a globalised world.

MAT YOUKEE (London, 1981) has been living in Colombia since 2010, working as a freelance journalist and professional investigator. He has an extensive on-the-ground knowledge of Colombia, as well as a wide network of relationships and connections, having worked with many international consultancies, government organisations, and private clients during his reporting for media outlets such as The Guardian, The Economist, The Telegraph, The Financial Times, Americas Quarterly, Foreign Policy, and other local and international publications.
Melbourne Ghost Signs

A beguiling photographic collection of the faded signs and half-hidden logos of Melbourne, revealing the historic tales — big and small — of this ever-changing city.

From the gold-rush years to the Swinging Sixties, from Robur Tea to Tarax soft drinks, this city can never settle. In a process of continual renewal, old buildings are incorporated into new, both uncovering and obscuring snippets of history. Ghost signs provide hints to our common heritage, ready to be picked up by the keen eye and quick shutter.

Sean Reynolds, a transplanted American, first became fascinated by these old signs while walking in Yarraville and Footscray with his young daughter during their daily lockdown outings. He loved the hand-painted letters, the intricate glass-work, and the old factories marketing brands he’d never heard of before: big names like Uncle Tobys and Four’n Twenty, but also smaller ones, no less important, like ‘Miss Watson’s Motor Garage’ or the ‘St Kilda Coffee Palace’.

Join him in a tour of fascinating photos — sometimes nostalgic, sometimes gaudy — and the stories behind them — variously delightful, heroic, and tragic. Find the cities behind the city you thought you knew, one ghost sign at a time.
MICHAEL VISONTAY has worked as a journalist and senior editor at The Sydney Morning Herald and The Australian, and taught journalism at university. He is the author of several nonfiction books, including Welcome to Wanderland, Who Gave You Permission? (with Manny Waks), and Undies to Equities: the remarkable life of Henri Aram.

Noble Fragments
the maverick who broke up the world’s greatest book

One hundred years ago, Gabriel Wells, a New York bookseller, committed a crime against history. He broke up the world’s greatest book, the Gutenberg Bible, and sold it off in individual pages. This is the story of an Australian man’s hunt for those fragments and his family’s debt to an act of literary vandalism.

In 1921, Well’s audacity scandalised the rare-book world. The Gutenberg was the first substantial book in Europe to have been printed on a printing press. It represented the democratisation of knowledge and was the Holy Grail of rare books.

Was the break-up a sacrilege or a canny deal? New Yorkers were divided. For every frown of disapproval, there was a lick of the lips. It was the Roaring Twenties, the Gatsby era of fabulous wealth. Tycoons were in a feeding frenzy to acquire items that would demonstrate their refinement. Wells marketed the pages as ‘Noble Fragments’, they sold like hot cakes, and he died a rich man.

Half a century later, Sydney journalist Michael Visontay stumbled upon a mysterious legal document that linked Wells to his own family. He became obsessed by the Gutenberg’s invisible imprint on his life, and set out to track down the pages of the broken bible.

Part detective story and part memoir, Noble Fragments is an expedition into the arcane world of book collectors and their eccentric passions, and a journey of discovery about how Wells’s gamble set off a chain of events that changed a family’s destiny.
Across two different time periods, two women confront fear, loneliness, mortality, and a haunting yearning that will not let them rest. A breakout, genre-blurring novel from one of the most exciting new voices of Latin America’s feminist Gothic.

In the nineteenth century, a vampire arrives from Europe to the coast of Buenos Aires, on the run from the Church. She must adapt, intermingle with humans, and, most importantly, be discreet.

In present-day Buenos Aires, a woman finds herself at an impasse as she grapples with her mother’s terminal illness and her own relationship with motherhood. When she first encounters the vampire in a cemetery, something ignites within the two women — and they cross a threshold from which there’s no turning back.

With echoes of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* and written in the vein of feminist Gothic writers like Shirley Jackson, Daphne du Maurier, and Carmen Maria Machado, *Thirst* plays with the boundaries of genre while exploring the limits of female agency, the consuming power of desire, and the fragile vitality of even the most immortal of creatures.

‘It takes courage to write about vampires: they are the greatest of monsters, but also the most trivialised. Marina Yuszczuk manages to bring hers to life in this intimate take on the genre, which also weaves together grief, the history of Buenos Aires, and the voracity of desire.’ Mariana Enriquez, author of *Our Share of Night*

‘Mesmerisingly translated by Cleary, Yuszczuk’s prose is meticulous, vibrant, propulsive, and masterfully paced. Her characterisations will stir readers’ emotions, empathy in particular; we suffer characters’ longing, their mournful feelings of being locked into inescapable circumstances. *Thirst* is an intense, haunting, and captivating novel that draws readers in from beginning to end.’ Lillian Dabney, *Booklist*
Irvin D. Yalom
With
Benjamin Yalom

Hour of the Heart
empathy and connection in the here-and-now

‘After some six decades of therapeutic practice and writing, I learned in a new and meaningful way how we humans — whether we’re in the cool, distanced medium of Zoom, or in the heat of real life — can create a startlingly honest and heartfelt connection that in a single hour can change one’s life.’

What does ‘the father of group therapy’ do at the age of 90, when he is still advising patients in the therapy sessions that have been his life’s work, and yet must face his increasing frailties and even his own mortality? Rather than melt into retirement, Dr Yalom develops another revolutionary approach.

In Hour of the Heart, Dr Yalom captures profound moments with his patients that happen in the span of just one hour, with people he will never see again. Taking place over two years before and during the Covid-19 pandemic, and amid Dr Yalom’s grief over losing his wife, these sessions would, as Dr Yalom writes, ‘help to sustain my client and would profoundly alter my vision of what psychotherapy can do’.

For any fans of Dr Yalom’s work, and for therapists and for those in training, Hour of the Heart is a collection of deeply moving personal stories that will tap into how powerful authentic human connection can be. While these one-hour sessions are, in many cases, just the start of these patients’ journeys, Dr Yalom’s insights, and his willingness to open himself up to his patients in a way rarely seen in therapy, are truly illuminating.

Praise for Creatures of a Day:
‘Irvin Yalom has produced a book of such piercing depth that to enter into it is transformative. You feel less like you are reading Creatures of a Day than that it is reading you. Only a handful of books can accomplish such a feat. Give praise that one more has entered this rare and precious list.’
Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, MacArthur Fellow and author of Plato at the Googleplex and Betraying Spinoza