

FOOTNOTES

Issue #12 October 2024

Official Newsletter of the Footscray Mechanics'
Institute Inc. Library



Welcome once again to our valued Members, both long-term, and recently joined, and here is Issue #12 of our quarterly newsletter "FOOTNOTES".

This issue features: A Chinese focus with two great book reviews, a look at the FMI Disability Access Project which ensures equal access to the FMI for all our Members, our neat index to back issues of previous "FOOTNOTES" newsletters, From the Archives - highlighting one of the FMI's WWI diggers, and our usual guide to new books purchased for our loan collection.

I would like to acknowledge the sad loss of our Member Mr Allan Trigellis-Smith, an avid reader, and a regular contributor to our newsletter. The FMI sends our condolences to the family and friends of our well-loved Member. Thank you to Neil Farren for the heartfelt obituary in tribute to his dear friend. Vale Allan.

Settle in and enjoy the latest newsletter from the dedicated team here at the FMI.

cheers
Cameron
(Editor)

Contributors:

Elizabeth Balfour (Secretary), Neil Farren (Committee), & Cameron Borg (Librarian)

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unless noted otherwise and credited accordingly

Cover Image:

"Forbidden City, Beijing" created exclusively by HOTPOT AI for our front cover
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FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE INC. LIBRARY

209 Nicholson Street Footscray VIC 3011

Ph: (03) 9687 1935

email "info@fmi.org.au"

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Reginald Leo Power - FMI Member served WWI

Members of the Mechanics' Institute signalled the departure of Mr. Reginald Power for the front with a pleasant little ceremony on Tuesday night. Mr. Robt. Johnstone (sic), sen., on behalf of members asked him to accept a beautiful wrist watch. Young Power was a popular member of the Institute. He has made many a cannon on the billiard table. His friends wish now he may take a few more cannon and come out of the war game well.

TROVE Independent (Footscray, Vic. : 1883 - 1922)

[Sat 29 May 1915](#)

[Page 2 ROLL OF HONOR.](#)

Mr Power served with distinction in the First World War, being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Military Medal.

He joined the 1st AIF in 1915, and returned home to Australia in 1919, surviving the war.

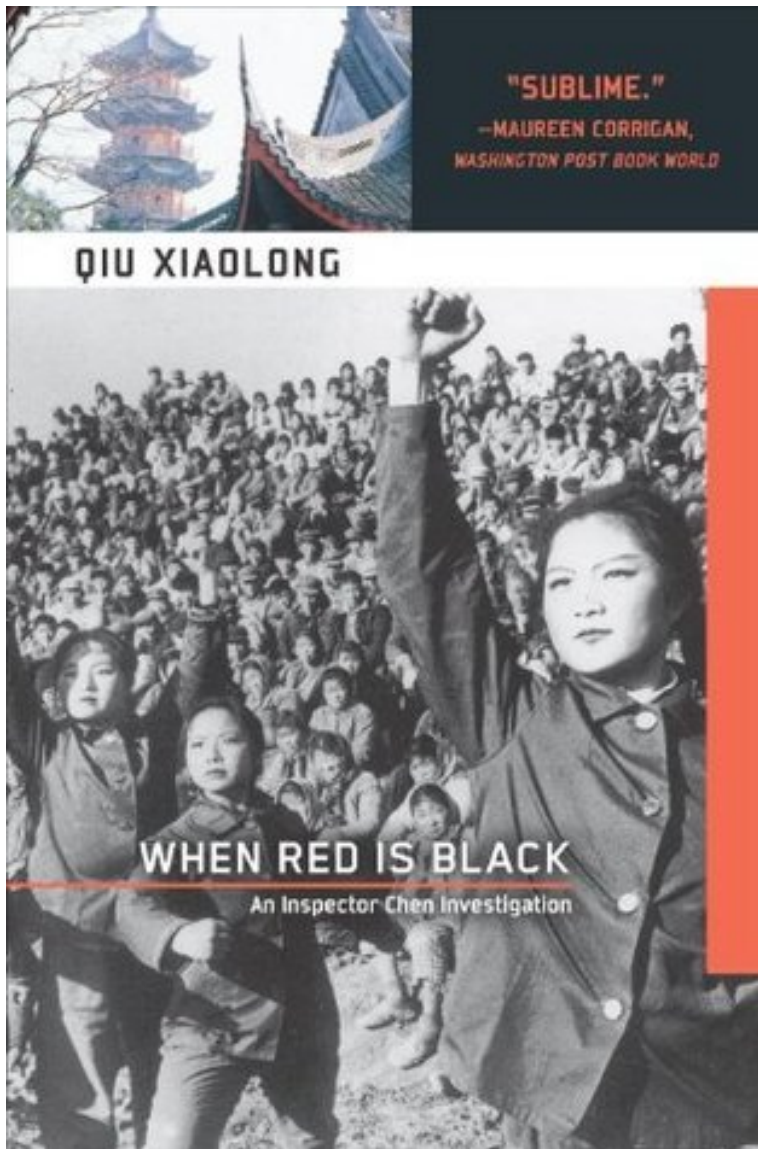
However it must have taken its toll on his health as he passed away in 1925, his war record indicated he was in the Signalling Corps in France, and suffered from septic dermatitis.

Mr Power was only 28 years old, but his service to his country is never forgotten. His story is one that is respected here at the Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc. where he obviously excelled at Billiards, and was highly thought of by his fellow Members.

Reginald Power's WWI dossier is available online to view at:
<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au>

The image shows a military attestation form for Reginald Leo Power. The form is titled "AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE" and "Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad." It contains the following information:

- No. 1132
- Name Power, Reginald Leo
- Unit "A" COY 30th BATT. A.I.F.
- Joined on 10th July 1915
- Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation:
 - Name: Power, Reginald Leo
 - Parish: Footscray, near the Town of Victoria, in the County of Yes
 - Age: 28 years
 - Trade: Salesman
 - Married: No
 - Next of kin: Father Power, Thomas, 107 Princess St, Carlton, Victoria
 - Convicted: No
 - Discharged: No
 - Service: R.A.M. R.O. 14 Years (Steel Serving)
 - Rejected: No
 - Smallpox: Yes
- Signature: R. Power
- Date: 10-7-15



Another new book from *The Sisters in Crime* donation is **When Red is Black** by Qiu Xiaolong. A Chinese author who resides in USA, and writes crime fiction in English.

Set in Shanghai in early 1990s it is a murder mystery in a classic style.

A woman, an intellectual and academic is found murdered in her little room. The cops investigate. The chief character Chen is on leave with a side hustle translating a business proposal into English, and his subordinate Yu is in charge of the investigation. There are political ramifications, potentially, owing to murder victims background so Chen and Yu are under some pressure to secure a quick politically safe conviction. There are multiple suspects and deductions based on theories going on throughout the book; a real who dun it in a traditional Agatha Christie like manner.

The setting is in traditional Shanghai style housing called shikumen. The author paints an accurate picture of Chinese society in the 1990s, a time when China was going through radical

transformation; from socialist to capitalism with Chinese characteristics. From a general egalitarianism to growing inequality, with a developing middle class. A major point here is housing and its allocation. The story has a backdrop of the Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s and the early 1970s, with its effects on the characters, which were mostly negative. Those times were a real skeleton in the closet for many people.

The characters who inhabit the book are realistic – including prawn peelers, pensioners and accountants in a world in transition. The political backdrop of policing is covered and the book is full of poetic and literature references. Food is a notable feature - how the Shanghainese really eat!

A good read and great way to see elements of Chinese society.

Incidentally fellow Members if you want to know more about China come on in and ask your questions and borrow the growing collection of materials on China and its history

NF

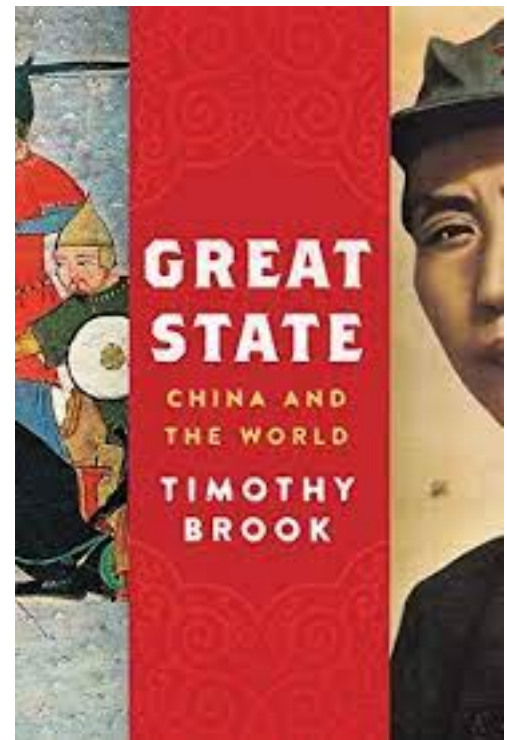
Australia has recently seen the Chinese Premier visiting. The past 30 years has seen a great deal of wealth growth in Australia. As China is responsible for receiving approximately 30% of Australia's exports one can see this wealth growth is at least connected to the developments in China. China has long history of involvement with the world. Brook follows this involvement over 600 years.

The latest purchase for the Footscray Mechanics' Institute (FMI) library on the subject of China is Timothy Brook's **GREAT STATE China and the World**. A real tome and academic but eminently readable at same time. Brook takes the Yuen dynasty in 13th Century as a starting point of the formation of a recognisable China, and takes the reader through Ming, Qing dynasties and modern times via some 14 chapters. The author acknowledges that the history is longer than this, but maps from the period and journals by such as those by Marco Polo, show a

identifiable China interfacing with the rest of the known world. The history of China is one of dynasties, some of which last for hundreds of years often falling into decline and being conquered by outside forces or rebellious internal forces. The Chinese say "*all that is divided shall be united and all united will be divided*" or words to that effect. Mongols formed the Yuen dynasty. Their political formations were based on families who chose the ruler thru '*bloody tanistry*' where last brother standing became the Khan and ruled.

The Mongol Khans ruled vast swathes of Asia Eurasia and parts of Europe. The Silk Road moved goods from Cathay to Vienna. Later on in the Ming period from 14th to 17th Century Chinese fleets roamed the oceans to Ceylon, and to India in the 15th Century. More locally they also had trade with local countries such as Japan and Korea. This was usually through a tribute system where other states acknowledged China as '*boss cocky*' while allowing trade in, and generous response of trade out. For example one chapter looks at Korean castaways and horse traders. A language book on Korean and Chinese existed in the 15th Century based on a horse sellers adventures in China! Later still in the 16th Century the Portuguese show up and via piracy and negotiation develop a presence. The Chinese regime closed the country as a result! The Dutch and English were not far behind the Portuguese. That went not so well for the Chinese, especially in case of the English.

The early Christian missionaries especially the Jesuits had an involvement at the highest level. They made real contributions to the scientific and technologic transfer in China. They were suspected of spying and in dispute with the Buddhists. The constant debate was on accepting people for what they were, and believing the Christian message, but not becoming European . This was particularly so on matters of Confusion morals and ancestralism. After the Ming dynasty fell apart China was taken over by the Manchu peoples.



The Qing as they are known expanded the Chinese area to include Tibetan plateau and Turkestan region. During the latter stages of Qing the colonial powers were involved, famously the Opium wars, and Chinese labour became internationalised. Economic conditions in China itself became problematic. Brook tells of a South African labour recruiter being murdered in Beijing. After the Qing fell came a republic and then a warlord era. By the 1930s a three way war between capitalist and communists and the Japanese was underway. Wang Jing Wei is still a 'baddy' in China as he collaborates with the Japanese to form a renegade state. A kind of Quisling figure.

The book ends with Brook seeing the power block of Russia, China and America developing at the international level. Internally Chinese see their country as the fatherland. Xi Jing Ping has a dream for the country and the development of the state has seen many move from real poverty to affluence, but the divisions of affluence greatly changed. Divisibly the Taiwanese, The Tibetans, elements of Hong Kong and the Turkic elements do not view events as do the Chinese per se. The new silk road ie the belt and road development is seeing a international debt burden occur as relationships between countries as diverse as Ecuador and Sri Lanka find their relationship with the Great State undergoing change. Brooks talks of ideas of neo colonialism and neo hegemony which I will allow you dear reader to work out.

On a down side some of the chapters are really excellent while others seem a little redundant. But generally a fantastic read especially for those who want to increase their knowledge of China.

Come in and check out this book and other fine books on the subject.

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(Image by FREEPIK)



Access For All project 2022-2024. FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.



In mid-2022, when the FMI were looking at re-releasing the space at 209/A (previously known as the ballroom) but converted into a tenancy decades ago, the applicants for the area questioned the accessibility of the entrance doorways for people with disabilities. This sparked an idea in the minds of the President and Secretary of the time. A special meeting was called in July that year. A proposal was put to committee to investigate the notion of embarking on a building project to allow people of all abilities and

mobilities to access our building. The pros and cons were thoroughly discussed, and research began. In December that year a fully scoped and costed proposal was presented to committee, who supported the project and positively authorized the executive to embark on what was to be a long, rewarding, at times frustrating, costly but forward thinking and practical program of construction and alteration to our historic FMI home.

The works were to include new disabled restrooms with baby change facilities, where the old stacks room was located, front and rear access door areas redesigned for independent wheelchair entrance and exit. The removal of our loved "Coral Tree" at the front of the library, and a raised walkway installed there to access the portico, and a raised and re-levelled carpark gradient to allow unimpeded wheelchair access to the back entrance, and entrance doors to the 209/A tenancy. Perhaps the biggest change(and cost) planned was the elevator to Level 1 of our building. It carries three people, and its dimensions accommodate a wheelchair, walker or pram and carer together.

Tenders were received, awarded and work began in earnest.

These things never come without a degree of delay, cost blowouts, material shortages and permit "surprises" and inconvenience to the day-to-day operations of our work and tenancies. However, having said that, the tendering and documentation process progressed, the FMI common area became a worksite for almost 12 months, and changes began to happen. An omelette can't be made without breaking a few eggs as they say, and we broke more than a few! In fact,



we literally broke through the ceilings of the FMI and more than a century's dust and grime permeated our building....as the lift preparations began in earnest.



Another curved ball was the insistence of our building surveyor, via our project managing architect, that our building become current legislative compliant in terms of fire code. So, an onsite hydrant, new fire service piping, water meters and fire hose installations were deemed mandatory. This resulted in more delays, permit applications and certification with the water company distributors. None of these items come cheaply, but we continued to focus on the improvement to our capital assets and ease of use for Members and tenants - in essence - the long game.

Results began to become visible. A new and much improved stacks room and maintenance area emerged from amongst the messy builder's storage area. The lift was installed after a tricky road closure and crane delivery through our carpark. Bathrooms were completed and new floor coverings and painting, along with entrance and security alterations, and the road opening for the mains water tap in process. Concurrently, our happy band of volunteers were assisting with much of the prep and cleanup around this huge, once in a century project.

October 2024 sees the alterations and additions complete, albeit with a few little outstanding items. We are at last seeing the fruits of our very significant financial outlays and investment as well as the long, seemingly never-ending disruptions and mess in our loved building. The Billiard Room has reopened, the entrance looking spick and span, and the lift being well utilized by our tenants, their clients as well as our Members too.



And this, is what we hoped would occur. The FMI Committee believe we have successfully future proofed our 1913 proud and beautiful "old girl" of Nicholson Street. Together with our library improvements, impressive new membership data and marketing activities and events we are justly proud of the 2024 FMI as a vital and respected institution of the West.

We acknowledge and thank our patient and flexible staff, Karen and Cameron, our in-house tenants and our hardworking volunteers for their assistance and understanding for the duration of the project. Also, our Members for the occasional limitations to their access of the FMI. We are grateful to 'Access and Architecture' for the development of

the scope, documentation and planning of the project and our architect, Richard Barrack from 'Barrack International Pty. Ltd.' for his patience, skill and dedication to the successful management the implementation of his plans. It certainly paid dividends to engage a specialist in this field of disability access. Together with Tom, Marc and Andre from Garnaut Constructions and our existing contractors (who worked at the periphery of the project), we believe we have together pulled off an extraordinary feat!



Mention and thanks must also go to our President Neville Balfour, who worked tirelessly for the duration of the works, coordinating all the moving parts and liaising with ALL parties to complete a task that few individuals could manage as a volunteer.

We are proud of the vision, courage and trust our committee showed by embarking on this expensive and important program and we are pleased indeed to be seeing the separate components of the project already being enjoyed by our Members. The joy and grateful thanks received from our Members and visitors are both a reward and reinforcement that sometimes, the time is right to have faith and make BIG changes and challenge ourselves. We took that leap in our vision (and skills) for the good of our FMI community and are grateful to the

wonderfully diligent and dedicated financial managers of decades past, whose wisdom in making sound fiscal decisions allowed the funding of this project to become a reality.

"Change is inevitable. Change will always happen, but you have to apply direction to change, and that's when it's progress." – Doug Baldwin

EB



Allan Trigellis-Smith [August 1950-2024].

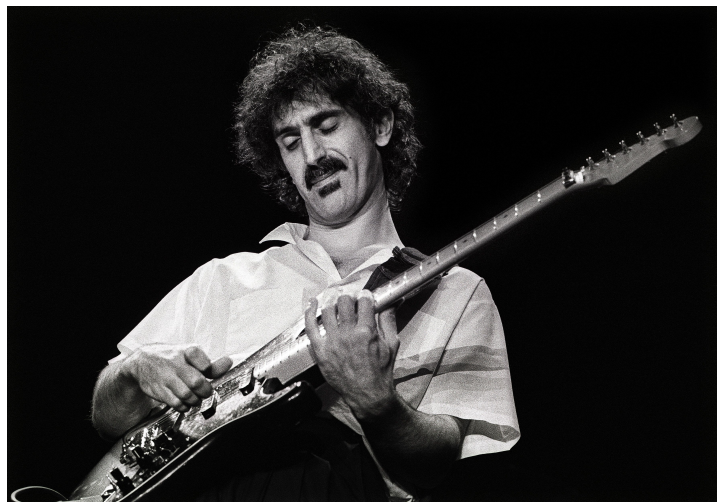
A Melbourne born native and Hawks supporter, Allan was a member of the Footscray Mechanics' Institute Library for some years. A valued member who contributed to our in house Zine "Footnotes".

A long time scholar of Japan, he taught Japanese at RMIT, and also in High School in Mentone for many years.

A long time Zappa fan, Allan could also solve cryptic crosswords by DW amongst many other skills.

He is survived by his spouse, three children and three young grandchildren.
Gone too Soon.

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<https://www.footscraymechanicsinstitute.org.au/footnotes-fmi-newsletter>



#1 [July 2021]



#2 [October 2021]



#3 [January 2022]



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Mata Hari

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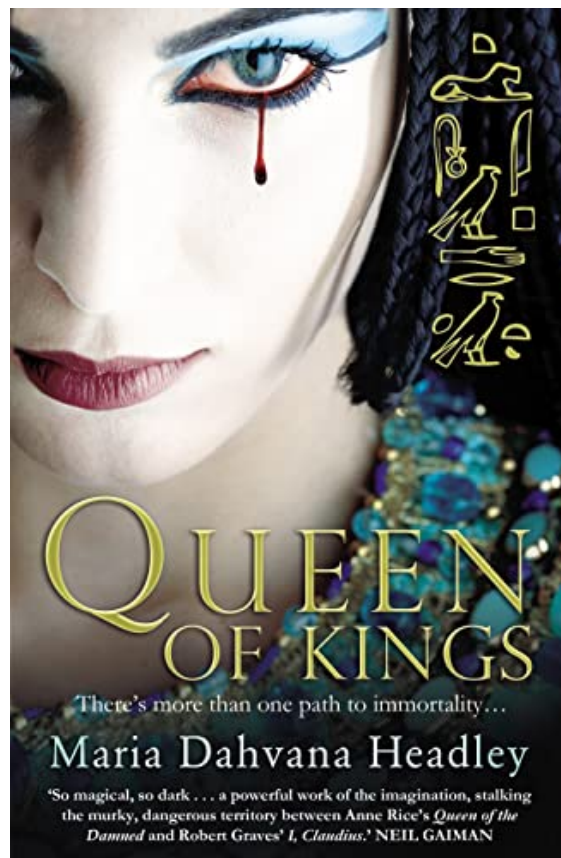
NEW BOOKS IN THE FMI COLLECTION

[Thanks to Fantastic Fiction, Book Grocer & Good Reads for book summaries. Used for review purposes only as stated under the Copyright Act]

Maria Dahvana Headley - **Queen of Kings**

There's more than one path to immortality...
A thrilling, chilling reimagining of the story of the most famous woman in history.
Once there was a queen of Egypt...a queen who became through magic something else...

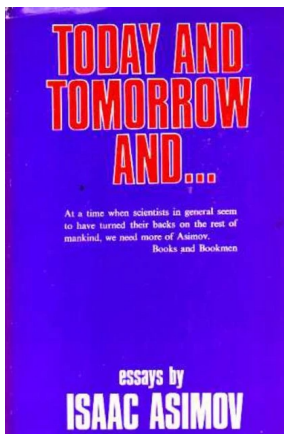
The year is 30 BC. Octavian Caesar and his massed legions are poised to enter Alexandria. A messenger informs Egypt's queen, Cleopatra, that her beloved Mark Antony has died by his own hand. Desperate to save her kingdom, resurrect her husband and protect all she holds dear, Cleopatra turns to the gods for help. Ignoring the warnings of those around her, she summons Sekhmet, goddess of death and destruction, and strikes a mortal bargain. And not even the wisest of Egypt's scholars could have predicted what would follow...



For, in return for Antony's soul, Sekhmet demands something in return: Cleopatra herself. And so Egypt's queen is possessed. She becomes an immortal, shape-shifting, not-quite-human manifestation of a deity who seeks to destroy the world. Fighting to preserve something of her humanity, Cleopatra pursues Octavian back to Rome: she desires revenge, she yearns for her children...and she craves human blood.

It is a journey that will take her from the tombs of the Pharaohs to the great amphitheatres of imperial Rome and on, to Hell itself where, it seems, the fate of the world will finally be decided.

Blending authentic historical fiction and the darkest of fantasy, Queen of Kings is a spectacular and spellbinding feat of the imagination that fans of Neil Gaiman, Diana Gabaldon, George R.R. Martin, Patricia Briggs, Philippa Gregory, and Ridley Scott's Gladiator won't want to miss.



Isaac Asimov

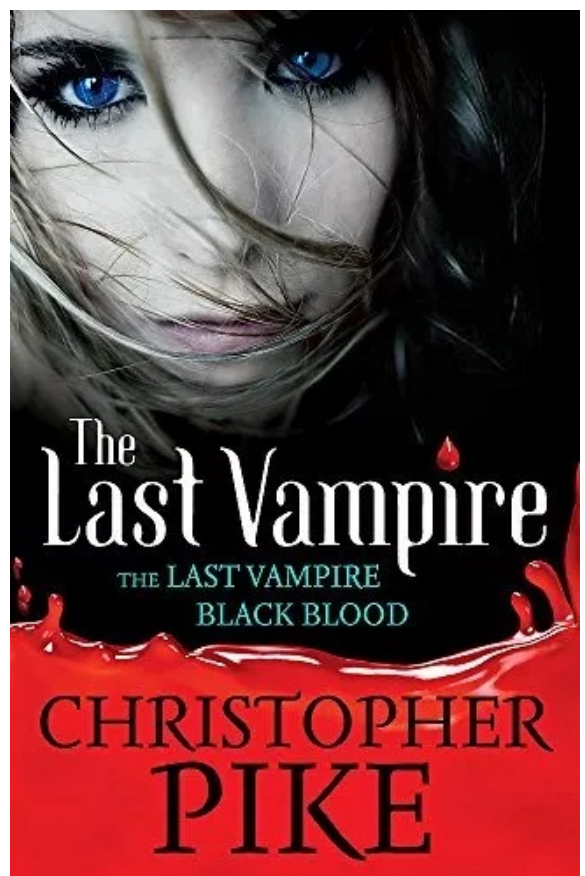
Today and Tomorrow And ...

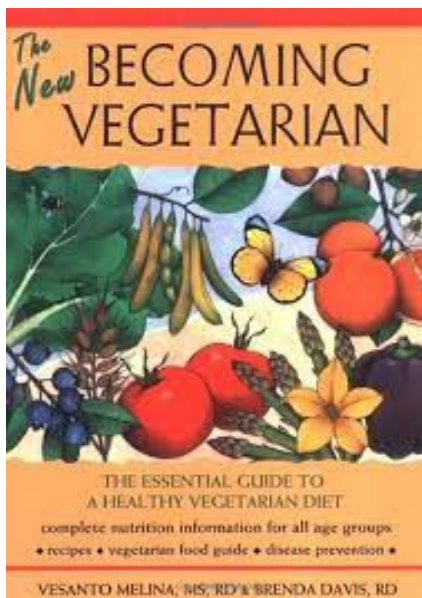
Here are thirty-two science essays written for a variety of publications over a six year period and all updated. Interesting to look back, thirty-five years on, to the major challenges envisaged on how to deal with developments in outer space as well as on earth.

Last Vampire: Volume 1: Last Vampire & Black Blood (1 & 2) by Christopher Pike

Christopher Pike

Sita is five thousand years old and believes she is the last vampire. When someone begins hunting her, she thinks it is the client of a detective she killed. She enrolls in high school and befriends the detective's son, and later falls in love with him. Meanwhile, Sita's creator Yaksha has been following her, believing he must kill her to atone for his sins. Sita thought she had killed him years before.





The New Becoming Vegetarian: The Essential Guide To A Healthy Vegetarian Diet

Vesanto Melina MS RD, Brenda Davis RD

This guide provides statistics on vegetarian eating, as well as up-to-date information on the science behind why vegetarians have an advantage when it comes to their health. Learn what the experts have to say about how to construct a vegetarian diet that meets all your nutritional needs.

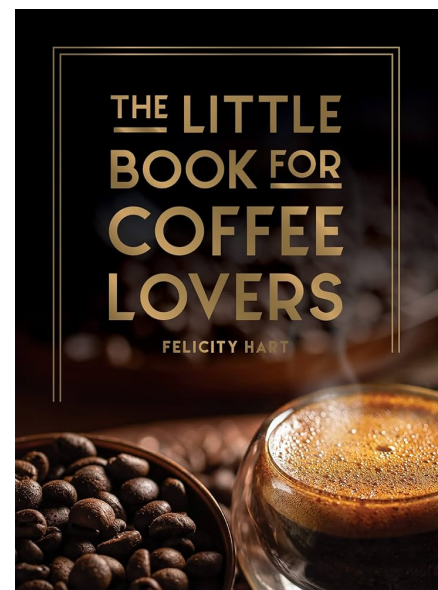
The Little Book for Coffee Lovers

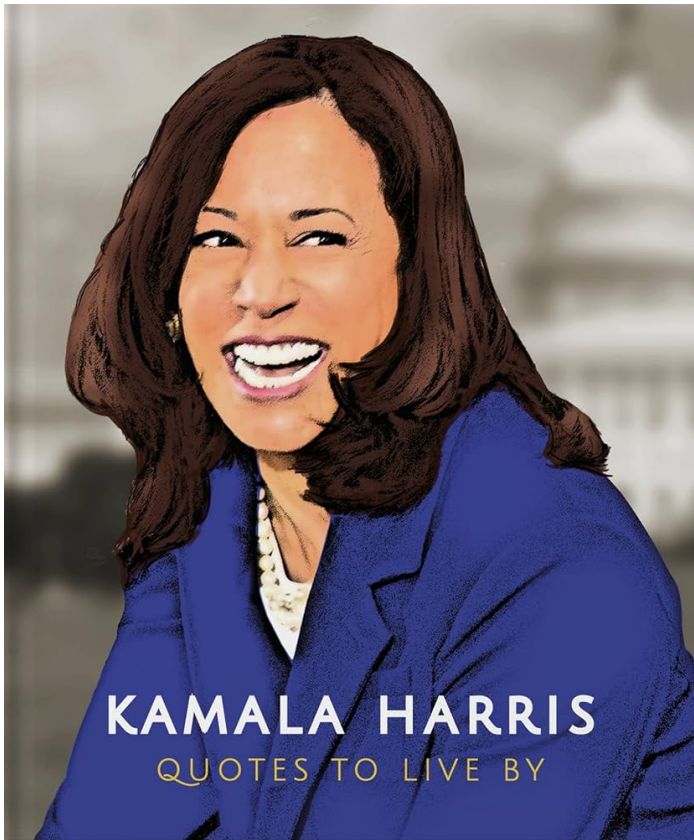
Felicity Hart

Prepare to take your love of coffee to the next level with this richly aromatic tour of the world's favorite drink, from bean to cup and beyond.

Happiness comes in all shapes and espresso, cortado, flat white, latte, cappuccino... We wake up and smell it. We crave it when we're sleepy. We take deep lungfuls of its rich aroma when we buy a new bag of it. We put it in cakes, cocktails and just about every other type of food imaginable. But most of all, we rely on it to punctuate our day with a caffeine hit and a small burst of all its delicious flavours. In this homage to the coffee bean you

· Discover how coffee was discovered, how it is grown and how it is turned into our favorite drink · Learn everything you wanted to know about different beans, roasting styles and brewing techniques · Take a barista training course from the comfort of your own kitchen, with top tips on making the perfect brew at home · Get to grips with modern developments in the coffee world, such as nitro, cold brew, proffee and snapchilled coffee · Try out delicious coffee-based recipes, from flavoured lattes and iced coffees to coffee fudge, tiramisu, homemade syrups and espresso martinis The only thing this book doesn't contain is caffeine - you'll have to make a fresh cup of joe for that.





Kamala Harris: Quotes To Live By

Kamala Harris: Quotes to Live By is a life-affirming collection of over 150 quotes from one of the world's most admired, relevant and exciting public figures today. As the daughter of immigrant parents from India and Jamaica, she rose to become District Attorney of San Francisco, Attorney General of California, United States Senator and finally to achieve the pinnacle of all her firsts: the first female Black and Asian-American Vice President of the United States.

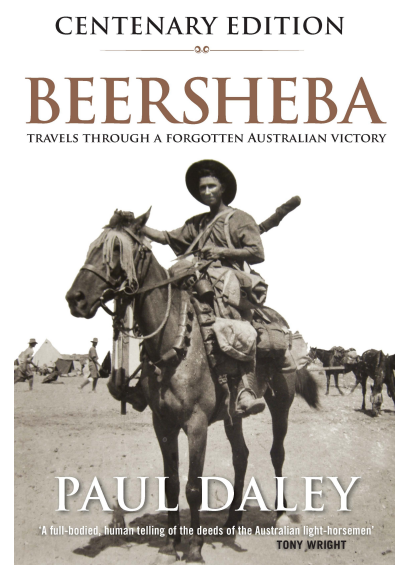
Throughout her distinguished career, she has been recognized for speaking the truth, standing up to the powerful, fighting against injustice and

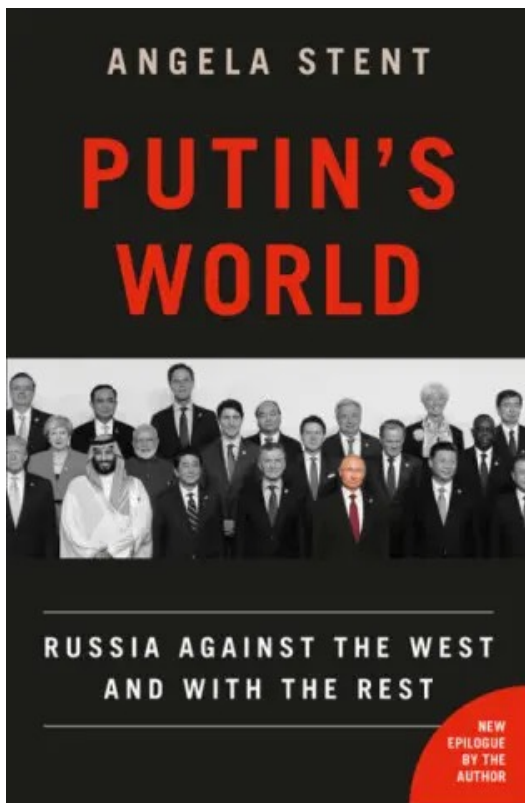
inequality and advocating for those who could not defend themselves. Her support for 'Black Lives Matter' and women's rights, as well as healthcare and immigration, along with her courage and determination, has made her a powerful force in politics and on the world stage.

BEERSHEBA

It was a glorious triumph of arms for Australian forces, a romantic moment of dash and bravura that stood out in the tragedy of World War I. Yet it barely registers in Australia's national consciousness. In October 1917 members of the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade took part in what is now known as the 'last great cavalry charge'. Waving bayonets overhead, they charged across six kilometres of open ground, cheating bombs, shells and bullets before capturing, in a desperate hand-to-hand battle, the Turkish trenches that held the key to the strategic stronghold of Beersheba. The charge was the last daring act of a day-long fight by combined British forces to capture Beersheba, and also a turning point in Britain's war against the Ottoman Empire, sending the Turks fleeing north to ultimate defeat. Yet the story has slipped through the cracks of history.

Journalist Paul Daley's journey in search of Beersheba takes him from Australia to Israel, from past to present, and from the battlefields to the archives, where he discovers a dark episode in Australian history that sits starkly at odds with the ANZAC myth and legend.





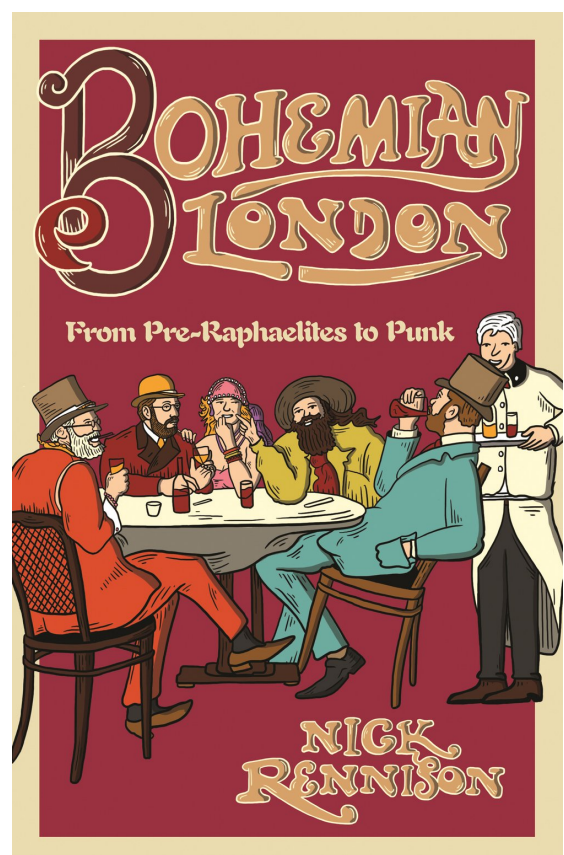
Putin's World: Russia Against the West and with the Rest

How did Russia manage to emerge resurgent on the world stage and play a weak hand so effectively? Is it because Putin is a brilliant strategist? Or has Russia stepped into a vacuum created by the West's distraction with its own domestic problems, and US ambivalence about whether it still wants to act as a superpower? Putin's World examines the country's turbulent past, how it has influenced Putin, the Russians' understanding of their position on the global stage and their future ambitions – and their conviction that the West has tried to deny them a seat at the table of great powers since the USSR collapsed. This book looks at Russia's key relationships – its downward spiral with the United States, Europe, and NATO; its ties to China,

Japan, the Middle East; and with its neighbours, particularly the fraught relationship with Ukraine. Putin's World will help Americans understand how and why the post-Cold War era has given way to a new, more dangerous world, one in which Russia poses a challenge to the United States in every corner of the globe – and one in which Russia has become a toxic and divisive subject in US politics.

Bohemian London

London has always been home to outsiders. To people who won't, or can't, abide by the conventions of respectable society. For close to two centuries these misfit individualists have had a name. They have been called Bohemians. This book is an entertaining, anecdotal history of Bohemian London. A guide to its more colourful inhabitants. Rossetti and Swinburne, defying the morality of high Victorian England. Oscar Wilde and Aubrey Beardsley in the decadent 1890s. The Bloomsburyites and the Bright Young Things. Dylan Thomas, boozing in the Blitz, and Francis Bacon and his cronies, wasting time and getting wasted in 1950s Soho. It's also a guide to the places where Bohemia has flourished. The legendary Cafe Royal, a home from home to artists and writers for nearly a century. The



Cave of the Golden Calf, a First World War nightclub run by the Swedish playwright August Strindberg's widow. The Colony Room, the infamous drinking den presided over by the gloriously foul-mouthed Muriel Belcher, and the Gargoyle Club in Dean Street where the artistic avant-garde mixed with upper-crust eccentrics. The pubs of Fitzrovia where the painters Augustus John and Nina Hamnett rubbed shoulders with the occultist Aleister Crowley and the short-story writer Julian Maclaren-Ross, wearing mirror sunglasses and clutching a silver-topped Malacca cane, held court for his acolytes and admirers. The story of Bohemian London is one of drink and drugs, sex and death, excess and indulgence. It's also a story of achievement and success. Some of the finest art and literature of the last two centuries has emerged from Bohemia. Nick Rennison's book provides a lively and enjoyable portrait of the world in which Bohemian Londoners once lived.



Karen Memory

Elizabeth Bear

"You ain't gonna like what I have to tell you, but I'm gonna tell you anyway. See, my name is Karen Memery, like memory only spelt with an e, and I'm one of the girls what works in the Hôtel Mon Cherie on Amity Street. Hôtel has a little hat over the o like that. It's French, so Beatrice tells me."

Set in the late 19th century—when the city we now call Seattle Underground was the whole town (and still on the surface), when airships plied the trade routes, would-be gold miners were heading to the gold fields of Alaska, and steam-powered mechanicals stalked the waterfront, Karen is a young woman on her own, is making the best of her orphaned state by working in Madame Damnable's

high-quality bordello. Through Karen's eyes we get to know the other girls in the house—a resourceful group—and the poor and the powerful of the town. Trouble erupts one night when a badly injured girl arrives at their door, begging sanctuary, followed by the man who holds her indenture, and who has a machine that can take over anyone's mind and control their actions. And as if that wasn't bad enough, the next night brings a body dumped in their rubbish heap—a streetwalker who has been brutally murdered.

Bear brings alive this Jack-the-Ripper yarn of the old west with a light touch in Karen's own memorable voice, and a mesmerizing evocation of classic steam-powered science.

The Minority Report

Philip K. Dick

Many thousands of readers consider Philip K. Dick the greatest science fiction mind on any planet. Since his untimely death in 1982, interest in Dick's works has continued to mount and his reputation has been further enhanced by a growing body of critical attention. The Philip K. Dick Award is now given annually to a distinguished work of science fiction, and the Philip K. Dick Society is devoted to the study and promulgation of his works.

This collection includes all of the writer's earliest short and medium-length fiction (including some previously unpublished stories) covering the years 1954-1964.

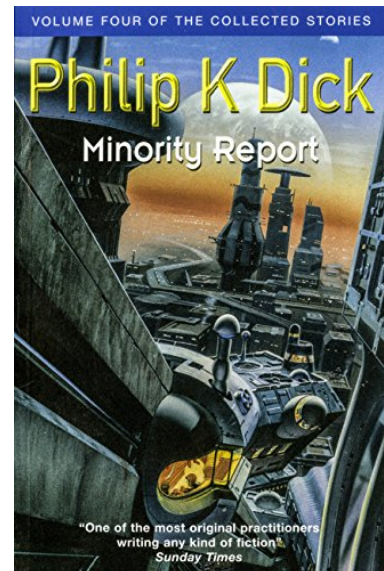
"A useful acquisition for any serious SF library or collection" – Kirkus

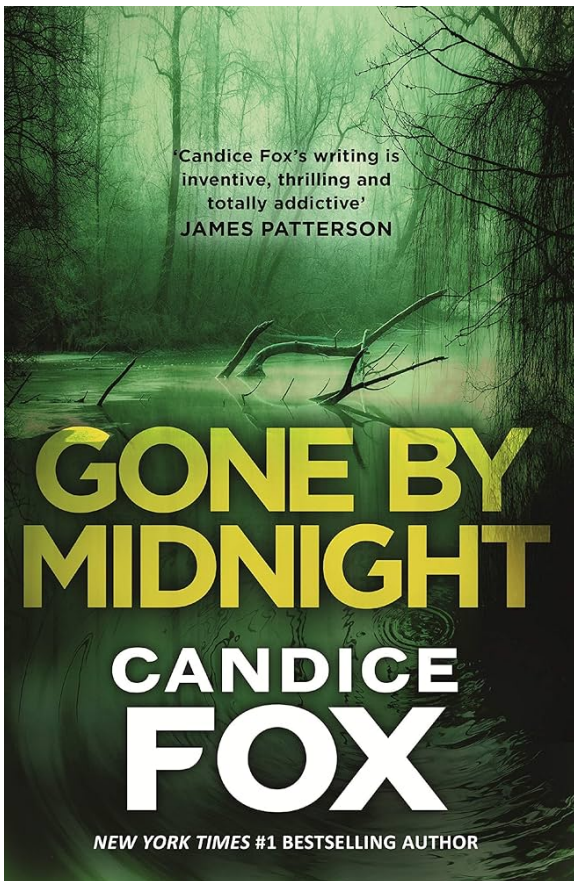
"The collected stories of Philip K. Dick is awe inspiring". – The Washington Post

"More than anyone else in the field, Mr. Dick really puts you inside people's minds". – Wall Street Journal

Volume 4/5. Includes stories from 1954-1964:

- Autofac (1955)
- Service Call (1955)
- Captive Market (1955)
- The Mold of Yancy (1955)
- The Minority Report (1956)
- Recall Mechanism (1959)
- The Unreconstructed M (1957)
- Explorers We (1959)
- War Game (1959)
- If There Were No Benny Cemoli (1963)
- Novelty Act (1964)
- Waterspider (1964)
- What the Dead Men Say (1964)
- Orpheus with Clay Feet (1987)
- The Days of Perky Pat (1963)
- Stand-By (1963)
- What'll We Do with Ragland Park? (1963)
- Oh, to Be a Blobel! (1964)





Gone by Midnight

Candice Fox

Crimson Lake is where people with dark pasts come to disappear—and where others vanish into thin air... basis of the hit TV series 'Troppo'

Four young boys are left alone in a hotel room while their parents dine downstairs. When Sara Farrow checks on the children at midnight, her son is missing.

Distrustful of the police, Sara turns to Crimson Lake's unlikeliest private investigators—disgraced cop Ted Conkaffey and convicted killer Amanda Pharrell. For Ted, the case couldn't have come at a worse time. Two years ago a false accusation robbed him of his career, his reputation, and most importantly, his family. But now Lillian, the daughter he

barely knows, is coming to stay in his ramshackle cottage by the lake.

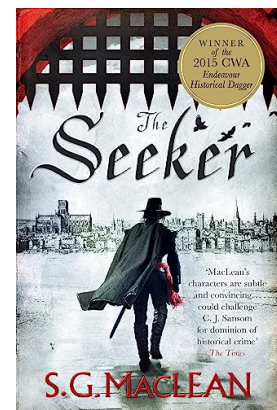
Ted must dredge up the area's worst characters to find the missing boy. The clock is ticking, and the danger he uncovers could well put his own child in deadly peril.

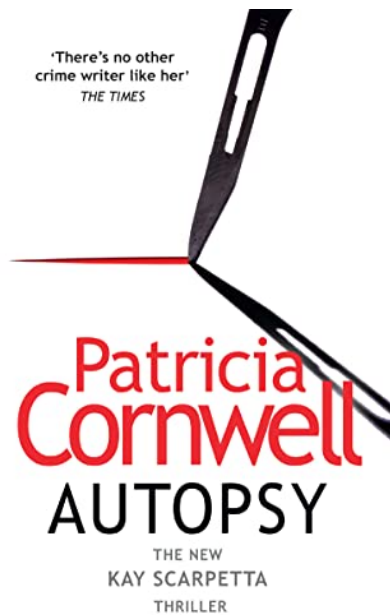
The Seeker: The Seeker 1

Author: S.G. MacLean

WINNER OF THE 2015 CWA ENDEAVOUR HISTORICAL DAGGER. London, 1654. Oliver Cromwell is at the height of his power and has declared himself Lord Protector. Yet he has many enemies, at home and abroad. London is a complex web of spies and merchants, priests and soldiers, exiles and assassins. One of the web's most fearsome spiders is Damian Seeker, agent of the Lord Protector. No one knows where

Seeker comes from, who his family is, or even his real name. All that is known of him for certain is that he is utterly loyal to Cromwell, and that nothing can be long hidden from him. In the city, coffee houses are springing up, fashionable places where men may meet to plot and gossip. Suddenly they are ringing with news of a murder. John Winter, hero of Cromwell's all-powerful army, is dead, and the lawyer, Elias Ellingworth, found standing over the bleeding body, clutching a knife. Yet despite the damning evidence, Seeker is not convinced of Ellingworth's guilt. He will stop at nothing to bring the killer to justice: and Seeker knows better than any man where to search.





Autopsy

Patricia Cornwell

Scarpetta is back! In this twenty-fifth in the electrifying, landmark #1 bestselling thriller series chief medical examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta hunts an ingenious killer who has mastered cutting-edge science for the most nefarious ends.

Forensic pathologist Kay Scarpetta has returned to Virginia as the chief medical examiner. Finding herself the new girl in town once again after being away for many years, she's inherited an overbearing secretary and a legacy of neglect and possible corruption.

She and her husband Benton Wesley, now a forensic psychologist with the U.S. Secret Service, have relocated to Old Town Alexandria where she's headquartered five miles from the Pentagon in a post-pandemic world that's been torn by civil and political unrest. Just weeks on the job, she's called to a scene by railroad tracks where a woman's body has been shockingly displayed, her throat cut down to the spine, and as Scarpetta begins to follow the trail, it leads unnervingly close to her own historic neighbourhood.

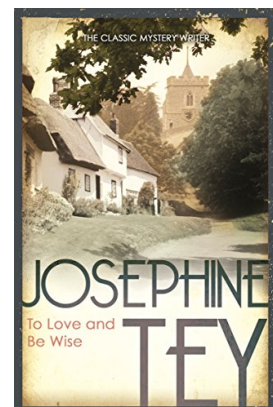
At the same time, a catastrophe occurs in a top secret private laboratory in outer space, and at least two scientists aboard are found dead. Appointed to the highly classified Doomsday Commission that specializes in sensitive national security cases, Scarpetta is summoned to the White House Situation Room and tasked with finding out what happened. But even as she works the first crime scene in space remotely, an apparent serial killer strikes again. And this time, Scarpetta could be in greater danger than ever before.

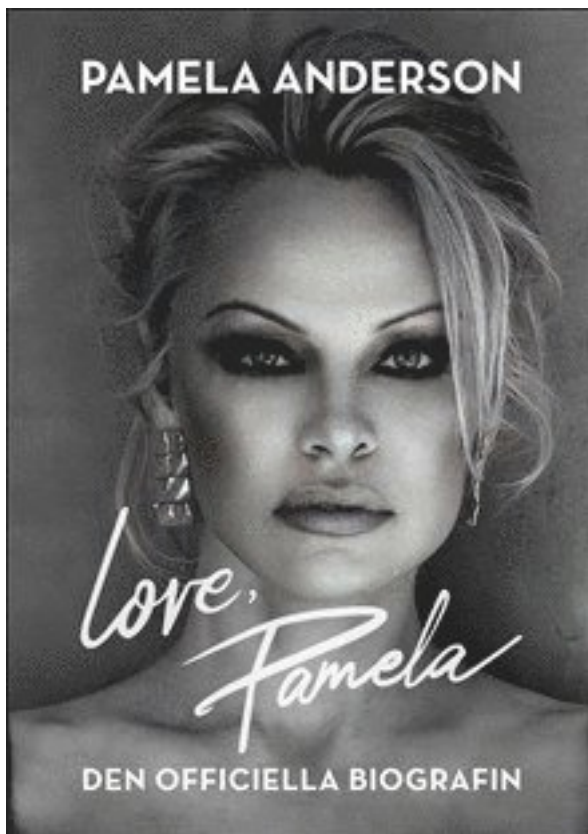
In this latest novel in her groundbreaking Kay Scarpetta series, Patricia Cornwell captivates readers with the shocking twists, high-wire tension, and forensic detail that she is famous for, proving once again why she's the world's #1 bestselling crime writer.

To Love and Be Wise

Josephine Tey

When a young strikingly handsome photographer mysteriously disappears, it's up to Inspector Alan Grant to discover whether he accidentally drowned, committed suicide, or met his death at the hands of one of his many female admirers.





Love, Pamela: Her new memoir, taking control of her own narrative for the first time

ACTRESS. ICON. ACTIVIST. Her story, in her voice, for the first time.

In this honest, layered and unforgettable book that alternates between storytelling and her own poetry, Pamela Anderson breaks the mould of the celebrity memoir while taking back the tale that has been crafted about her.

Her blond bombshell image was ubiquitous in the 1990s. Discovered in the stands of a football game, she was immediately rocket launched into fame, becoming Playboy's favourite cover girl and an emblem of Hollywood glamour and sexuality. But what happens when you lose grip on your own life - and the image the notoriety machine creates for you is not who you really are?

Growing up on Vancouver Island, the daughter of young, wild, and unprepared parents, Pamela Anderson's childhood was not easy, but it allowed her to create her own world-surrounded by nature and imaginary friends. When she overcame her deep shyness and grew into herself, she fell into a life on the cover of magazines, the beaches of Malibu, the sets of movies and talk shows, the arms of rockstars, the coveted scene at the Playboy Mansion. And as her star rose, she found herself tabloid fodder, at the height of an era when paparazzi tactics were bent on capturing a celebrity's most intimate, and sometimes weakest moments. This is when Pamela Anderson lost control of her own narrative, hurt by the media and fearful of the public's perception of who she was . . . and who she wasn't.

Fighting back with a sense of grace, fuelled by a love of art and literature, and driven by a devotion to her children and the causes she cares about most, Pamela Anderson has now gone back to the island where she grew up, after a memorable run starring as Roxie in Chicago on Broadway, reclaiming her free spirit but also standing firm as a strong, creative, confident woman.

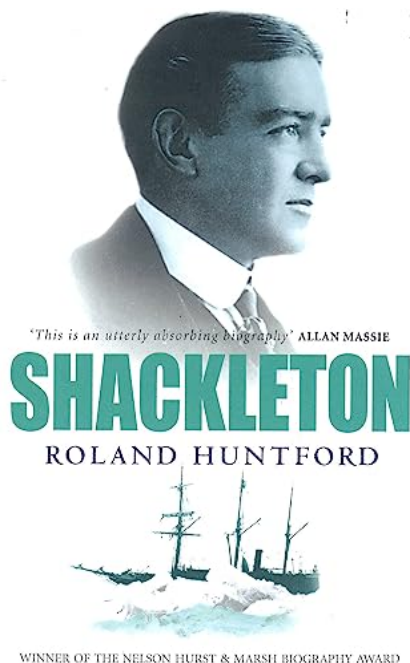
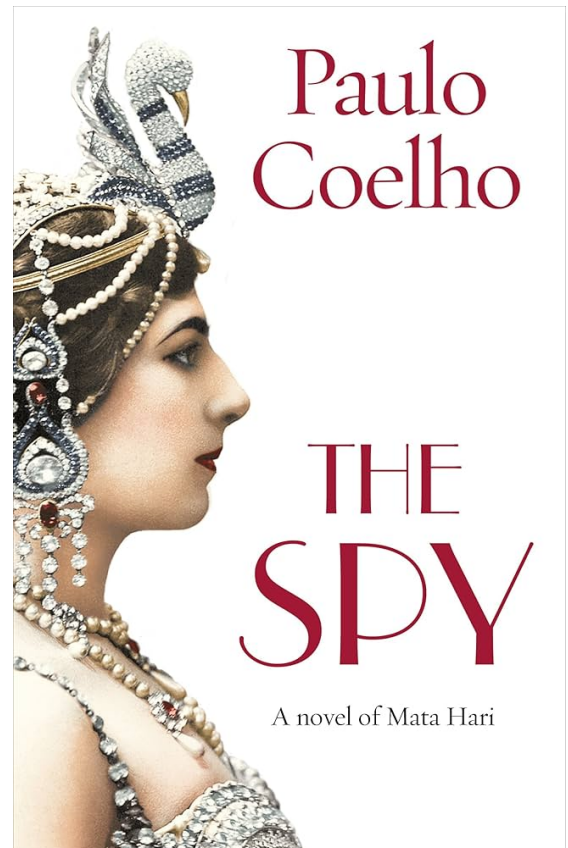
'The iconic Anderson uses a mixture of poetry and prose to present an impressionistic view of a fascinating life' Booklist

PAMELA ANDERSON is an international icon whose work spans both entertainment and activism. Through the Pamela Anderson Foundation, she champions causes close to her heart, including ocean and rain forest conservation and the protection of vulnerable humans and animals. Above all else, being a mother to sons Brandon Thomas Lee and Dylan Jagger Lee has been Pamela's priority and greatest source of pride.

The Spy

Author: Paulo Coelho

The Spy tells the unforgettable story of a woman who dared to break the conventions of her time, and paid the price. When Mata Hari arrived in Paris she was penniless. Soon she was feted as the most elegant woman in the city. A dancer who shocked and delighted audiences, as a confidante and courtesan she bewitched the era's richest and most powerful men. But as paranoia consumed a country at war, Mata Hari's lifestyle brought her under suspicion. In 1917 she was arrested in her hotel room on the Champs-lysees and accused of espionage. Told through Mata Hari's final letter, The Spy is the unforgettable story of a woman who dared to break the conventions of her time, and paid the price.



Shackleton

Author: Roland Huntford

Ernest Shackleton was the quintessential Edwardian hero. A contemporary - and adversary - of Scott, he sailed on the 'Discovery' expedition of 1900, and went on to mount three expeditions of his own. Like Scott, he was a social adventurer; snow and ice held no particular attraction, but the pursuit of wealth, fame and power did. Yet Shackleton, an Anglo-Irishman who left school at 16, needed status to raise money for his own expeditions. At various times he was involved in journalism, politics, manufacturing and City fortune-hunting - none of them very effectively. A frustrated poet, he was never to be successful with money, but he did succeed in marrying

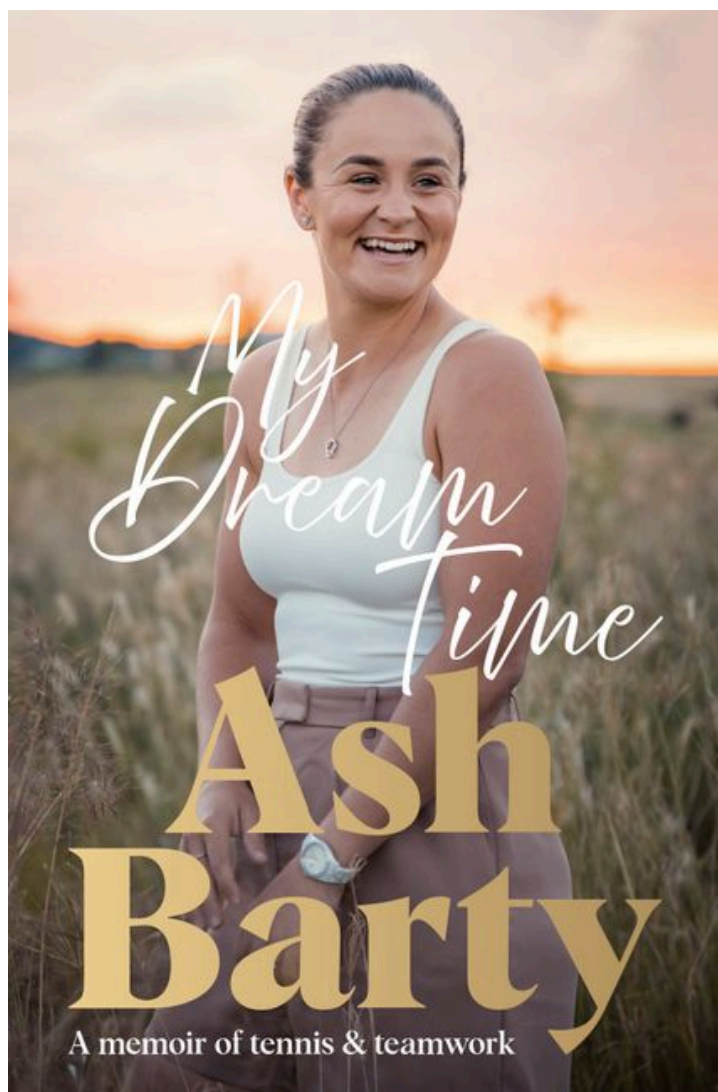
it. At his height he was feted as a national hero, knighted by Edward VII, and granted 20,000 pounds by the government for achievements which were, and remain, the very stuff of legend. But the world to which he returned in 1917 after the sensational 'Endurance' expedition did not seem to welcome surviving heroes. Poverty-stricken by the end of the war, he had to pay off his debts through writing and endless lecturing. He finally obtained funds for another expedition, but dies of a heart attack, aged only 47, as it reached South Georgia.

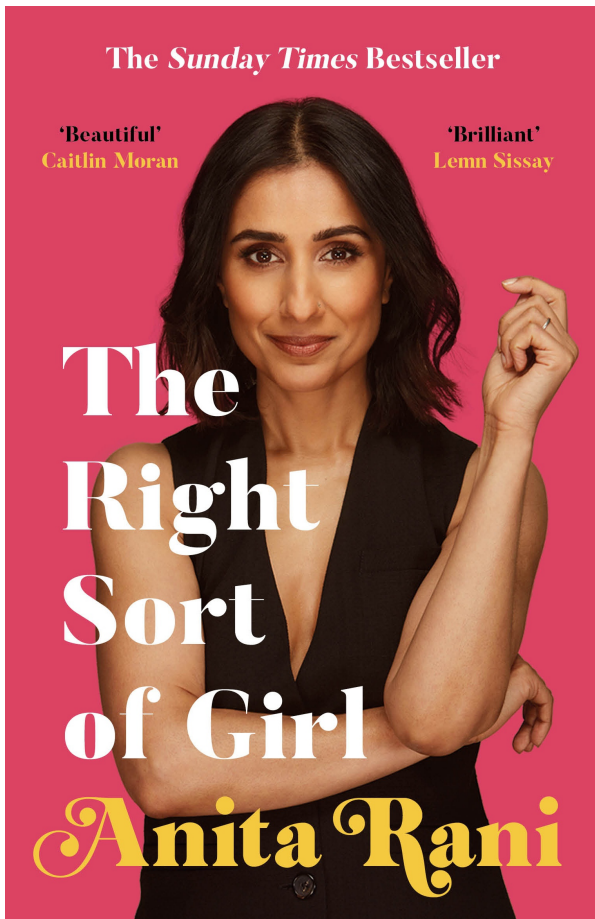
My Dream Time: The #1 bestselling memoir from global tennis superstar Ash Barty

Author: Ash Barty

It's a tennis story. It's a family story. It's a teamwork story. It's the story of how I got to where and who I am today. I'm only in my mid-twenties, and some might think that's young to write a memoir. Who does that, right? But for me and my team it's always been important to reflect on every part of the journey, especially the end. In that context, the timing is perfect to share my story, from the first time I picked up a racquet as a 5-year-old girl in Ipswich to the night I packed up my tennis bag at Melbourne Park after winning the 2022 Australian Open. This book gives me a chance to look back at every moment of the 20 years in between, and to think carefully through the highs and lows, the work and the play, the smiles and the tears. Telling my story also gives me an opportunity to do more than simply thank those who mean the most to me - it

provides a way to honour them as an integral part of that tale, as the very secret behind my success. Some of them you might know - such as my longtime coach, Craig Tyzzer - and some of them you might not - like my first childhood coach, Jim Joyce. There are mates like Casey Dellacqua and Alicia Molik. Mentors such as tennis icon Evonne Goolagong Cawley and mindset coach Ben Crowe. My parents and sisters and my husband have sacrificed as much as I have over the years - this book is also for them. My Dream Time is about finding the path to being the best I could be, not just as an athlete but as a person, and to consider the way those identities overlap and compete. We all have a professional and a personal self. How do you conquer nerves and anxiety? How do you deal with defeat, or pain? What drives you to succeed - and what happens when you do? The answers tell me so much, about bitter disappointments and also dreams realised - from injuries and obscurity and self-doubt to winning Wimbledon and ranking number 1 in the world. My story is about the power and joy of doing that thing you love and seeing where it can take you, about the importance of purpose - and perspective - in our lives.





The Right Sort of Girl: The Sunday Times Bestseller

Author: Anita Rani

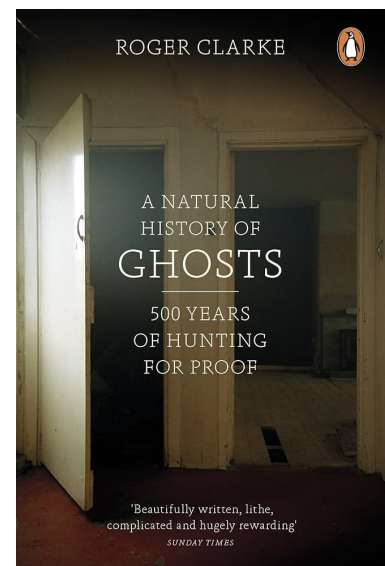
'Warm, honest and funny, filled with hope and inspiration' Nimesh Shukla 'Funny, touching, occasionally veering into beautifully controlled, quiet rage... a must-read' Viv Groskop 'Like a bloody good natter with your down-to-earth friend' Shappi Khorsandi 'A joy from start to finish' Emma Kennedy 'Empowering... I will be recommending to everyone I know' Nikita Gill 'I'm a girl and northern and brown, didn't you know? A triple threat!' Trying to navigate her Indian world at home and the British world outside her front door, Anita Rani was a girl who didn't fit in anywhere. She was always destined to stand out: from playing Mary in her otherwise all white nursery nativity to growing up in eighties Yorkshire with her Punjabi family, spending evenings in the factory her parents owned

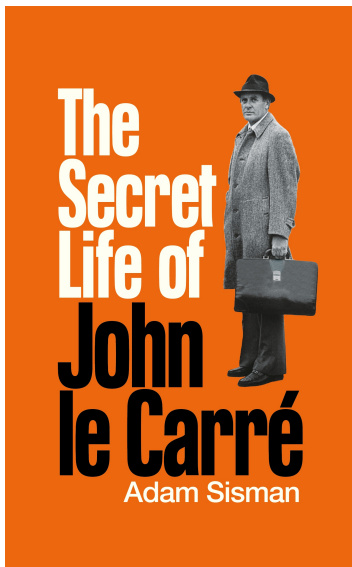
whilst trying to figure out how best to get rid of hair that seemed to be growing EVERYWHERE. Anita shares the lessons she wishes her younger self could have known: 'Freedom is Complicated', 'You Will Fall in Love and Be Loved' and, most importantly, 'Your Anger is Legitimate'. How did she manage to become the powerhouse she is, whilst battling against being too white inside her home and too brown outside of it? This story of a second-generation British Indian woman up north is also a tale of tenacity and a life lived with positivity and humour. If you have ever felt alone, different, or just not the right sort of girl, this is the book for you.

Natural History of Ghosts: 500 Years of Hunting for Proof

Author: Roger Clarke

Why are we fascinated with ghosts? And why do we so often fear the supernatural? Growing up in a haunted house, Roger Clarke spent much of his childhood trying to see a ghost. In this book he presents a true history of ghosts: how we see them and why we believe in them. Learn about the true events behind famous and literary ghosts, and follow Clarke as he explains spectral sightings and why we fear ghosts, and explores what proof we have of ghosts.





The Secret Life of John le Carre

Author: Adam Sisman

Secrecy came naturally to John le Carre, and there were some secrets that he fought fiercely to keep. Adam Sisman's definitive biography, published in 2015, provided a revealing portrait of this fascinating man; yet some aspects of his subject remained hidden. Nowhere was this more so than in his private life.

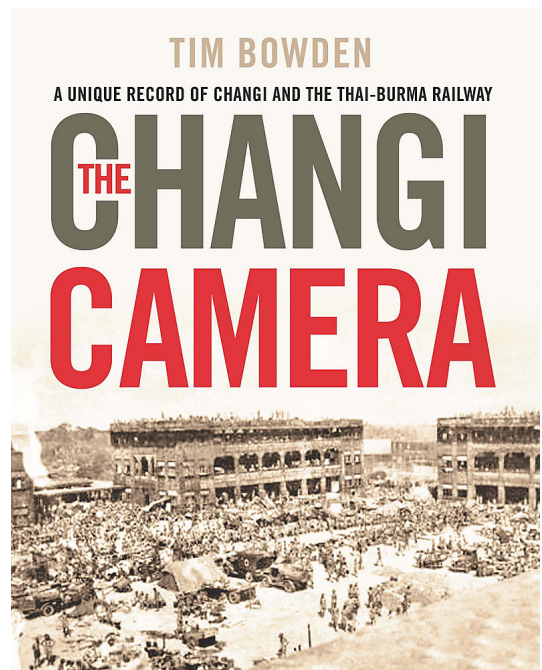
Apparently content in his marriage, the novelist conducted a string of love affairs over five decades. To these relationships he brought much of the tradecraft that he had learned as a spy - cover stories, cut-outs and dead letter boxes. These clandestine operations brought an element of danger to his life, but they also meant deceiving those closest to him. Small wonder that

betrayal became a running theme in his work. In trying to manage his biography, the novelist engaged in a succession of skirmishes with his biographer. While he could control what Sisman wrote about him in his lifetime, he accepted that the truth would eventually become known. Following his death in 2020, what had been withheld can now be revealed. *The Secret Life of John le Carre* reveals a hitherto-hidden perspective on the life and work of the spy-turned-author and a fascinating meditation on the complex relationship between biographer and subject. 'Now that he is dead,' Sisman writes, 'we can know him better.'

The Changi Camera George Aspinall's Photographs and Memories

Author: Tim Bowden

In *THE CHANGI CAMERA*, acclaimed author Tim Bowden presents a unique record of one Australian soldier's experience of the fall of Singapore, captivity in Changi and enduring the hell of the Thai-Burma Railway. George Aspinall was a keen photographer and, even in the very worst of conditions, he managed to take photos, process them and so preserve for later generations the reality of incarceration. Along with George's own memories of those years, Tim Bowden has written a gripping and authoritative overview of what happened in Changi and on the Railway. This powerful narrative and unique collection of almost one hundred photographs combine to give us a raw and graphic account of just what George and thousands of his fellow Australians endured.



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