

# UNITY BOOKS

SPRING 2016

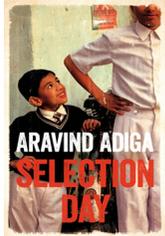


Welcome to our spring newsletter. When publishers say “outstanding” we think ‘great!’ and ‘prove it’ and that’s just what they’ve done. In here we’ve got the best books of spring to jump start us all into the summer party season. So load up your bedside chairs and get reading!



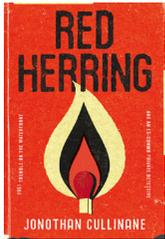
**Dear Mr M -- Herman Koch**  
\$37, pb, Text Publishing

Herman Koch is the master of the thrilling page-turner. With *Dear Mr M*, he turns his critical gaze to the literary world. A writer is being surveilled by someone whose own story bears a striking resemblance to the plot of his bestselling thriller, in which a teacher has an affair with a student, only to be murdered by the girl and her teenage boyfriend.



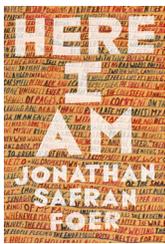
**Selection Day -- Aravind Adiga**  
\$35, pb, Picador

This rousing novel of adolescence, ambition and family, from Man Booker Prize-winning author Aravind Adiga, is set in contemporary Mumbai. Cricket-mad fourteen-year-old Manju admires his star cricket-playing brother Radha as much as he begrudges his overbearing father. When Manju becomes acquainted with Radha's privileged and confident rival, everything in Manju's world begins to change.



**Red Herring -- Jonathan Cullinane**  
\$37, pb, HarperCollins

A taut thriller set in the grubby underbelly of 1951 New Zealand, *Red Herring* combines murder, political intrigue, crooked cops and anti-communism hysteria. Johnny Molloy is a private detective with a dark side, and Caitlin O'Carolan is a gutsy young reporter. Together, they start to unravel a conspiracy, putting themselves in the line of danger.



**Here I Am -- Jonathan Safran Foer**  
\$37, pb, Hamish Hamilton

*Here I Am* charts the life of a modern American Jewish family, falling apart in Washington DC as a wider impasse unfolds in the Middle East: a devastating earthquake triggers a pan-Arab invasion of Israel. Safran Foer's first novel in a decade questions the true meaning of home and belonging in the midst of domestic collapse and global upheaval.



**The Museum of Modern Love -- Heather Rose**  
\$33, pb, Allen & Unwin

Art lovers will enjoy this stylish novel. Arky, a film composer in New York, is separated from his wife. One day in The Atrium at MOMA he sees the artist Marina Abramovic in her performance *The Artist is Present*. The performance continues for seventy-five days, and as it unfolds Arky begins to understand his quandary, while he contemplates art and the commitment of marriage.



**Miss Jane -- Brad Watson**  
\$35, pb, Picador

Award-winning author Brad Watson has returned with an exceptional novel based on the life of his great-aunt, set in rural Mississippi at the turn of the 20th century. Jane has an unusual birth defect that stands in the way of the central 'uses' of a woman of that time. This deceptively simple, mesmerising book tells the whole life of an admirable woman. Perfect for fans of John Williams' classic novel *Stoner*.



**A Manual for Cleaning Women -- Lucia Berlin**  
\$25, pb, Picador

A stunning collection from a legendary short-story writer, the late Lucia Berlin. We are so enamoured with these beautifully observed and piercing stories about the marginalised working classes in America. Berlin's stories explore the inner lives of cleaners, switchboard operators, nurses and struggling mothers, with a melancholy sadness, tough wit and radiant wisdom.



**The Lesser Bohemians -- Eimear McBride**  
\$37, pb, Text Publishing

Readers will remember Eimear McBride's strikingly original award-winning debut *A Girl is a Half Formed Thing*. With *The Lesser Bohemians* she returns with an unlikely love story between an eighteen-year-old Irish drama student fresh to the big smoke and an older established actor. Set amongst the dynamic hum of 1990s London, this is a story of love and new beginnings.



**Commonwealth -- Ann Patchett**  
\$33, pb, Bloomsbury

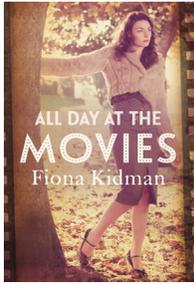
Spanning five decades, *Commonwealth* is a dynamic story told with Ann Patchett's trademark emotional insight and fully realised characters. It kicks off with a bang one afternoon in Southern California when Bert Cousins shows up uninvited at Franny Keating's christening party. By the end of the evening, he has kissed Franny's mother, setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages.



**Heroes of the Frontier -- Dave Eggers**  
\$38, pb, Hamish Hamilton

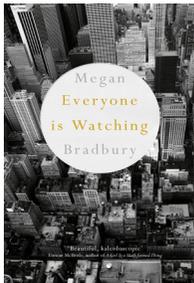
Cult favourite Dave Eggers returns with a pitch-black comedy about family and loss in a violent modern America. Taking us through wildfires, ice-cold rivers and dark forests in the Alaskan wilderness, Eggers chronicles the journey of Josie, who makes a run for it with her children after her ex announces he wants to take them to meet his new fiancée.

— FICTION AND POETRY —



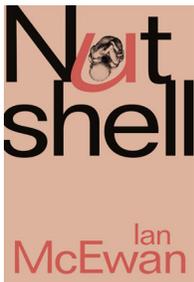
**All Day at the Movies -- Fiona Kidman**  
\$38, pb, Vintage

Widowed during the war, Irene Sandle leaves her life as a librarian for a new start working in the tobacco fields of Motueka, with her young daughter in tow. This epic family story charts the harsh realities of Irene's life in the early 1950s, and the shifts in New Zealand's history as attitudes and opportunities begin to change.



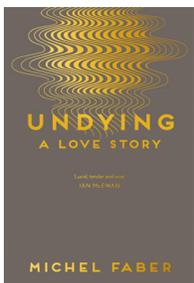
**Everyone is Watching -- Megan Bradbury**  
\$38, hb, Picador

A sweeping and kaleidoscopic novel which captures the energy rush of New York City. This dazzling narrative interweaves the voices and aspirations of four acclaimed New Yorkers: Walt Whitman, Robert Moses, Robert Mapplethorpe and Edmund White. *Everyone is Watching* is an intoxicating love letter to the city that never sleeps.



**Nutshell -- Ian McEwan**  
\$38, hb, Jonathan Cape

A classically literary novel of murder and deceit told from a unique perspective inside a mother's womb! *Nutshell* tells the story of Trudy, who, after betraying her husband John, remains in the marital home with John's brother and together they hatch a plan. *Nutshell* is written in McEwan's typically elegant and polished style.



**Undying: A Love Story -- Michel Faber**  
\$28, hb, Canongate

'I would have been a different writer without my wife,' author Michel Faber has said in *The Guardian*. Grief-struck after losing wife and muse Eva to cancer, Faber has produced this beautiful collection of sometimes brutally painful poems as a tribute to her. Faber unflinchingly deals with the destruction of her illness, the realities of caring for her and the loneliness after her death.

— ESSAYS AND POETRY —



**Hera Lindsay Bird -- Hera Lindsay Bird**  
\$25, pb, Victoria University Press

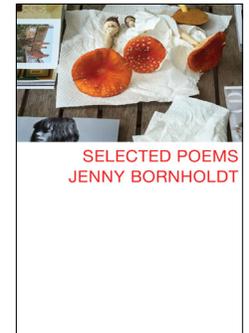
Here at Unity we love authors writing their own reviews.

This breathtaking and explosive new book by Wellington author Hera Lindsay Bird makes William Shakespeare look like a little bitch. Not only has its publication heralded a new age of poetry, but it has also retrospectively rendered Homer irrelevant, and most of Coleridge too. A famous poetry scholar was recently quoted as saying 'I always thought T.S. Eliot was the greatest poet of modernity, but after reading this book, his work now seems totally facile. I can't believe I've wasted so much of my life!!!' Jonathan Franzen was also reported ugly crying at a shopping mall recently, but this could be due to loneliness.

*A reprint of Hera Lindsay Bird's internationally acclaimed collection of poetry is available now.*

**Selected Poems -- Jenny Bornholdt**  
\$40, hb, Victoria University Press

Jenny Bornholdt is unquestionably one of New Zealand's greatest poets and *Selected Poems* is a defining collection of her poems, covering thirty years of published work. Including staff favourites *The boyfriends*, *Fitter Turner*, *Poem about a horse*, and long-form work such as *Big Minty Nose*, *Selected Poems* is filled with the lyrical beauty, wit and feeling for which Bornholdt is renowned.

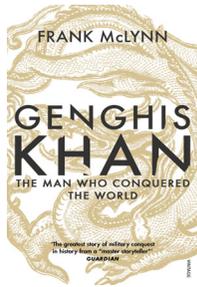


**Can You Tolerate This? Personal Essays -- Ashleigh Young**  
\$30, pb, Victoria University Press

The personal essay has been making a comeback, and here at Unity we're anticipating Ashleigh Young's new collection will be gasoline on the fire. Many will be familiar with her extraordinary and unique writing style that is at once personal and universal, filled with wit and pathos. From French postmen to rare skeletal diseases to family stories, Young navigates between light and dark with an effortlessness that belies the skill and intelligence at play.

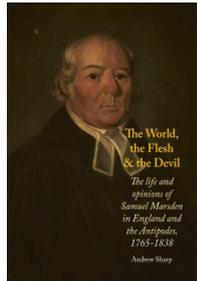


— BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR —



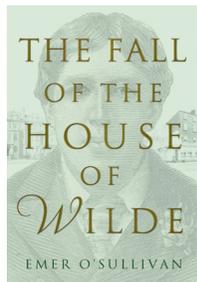
**Genghis Khan: The Man Who Conquered the World -- Frank McLynn**  
\$30, pb, Vintage

One of the most fascinating and brutal conquerors the world has known, Genghis Khan created the Mongol Empire – the largest ever contiguous land empire in the world – by destroying individual tribes in Northeast Asia. This book examines how an illiterate nomad was able to rise to such immense power. Drawn from newly translated sources, this is a vivid and page-turning read.



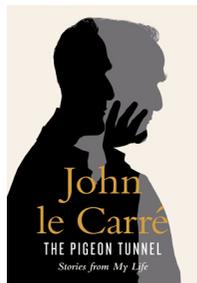
**The World, the Flesh & the Devil: The Life and Opinions of Samuel Marsden in England and the Antipodes -- Andrew Sharp**  
\$75, hb, Auckland University Press

Chaplain, magistrate, agriculturalist and missionary Samuel Marsden is credited as the founder of the missions that brought Christianity to New Zealand. This major in-depth study by an Emeritus Professor of Political Studies at the University of Auckland examines Marsden's life across England, New South Wales and New Zealand, focusing on the evangelical perspective with which Marsden related to the world.



**The Fall of the House of Wilde: The Wildes of Dublin and London Emer O'Sullivan**  
\$60, hb, Bloomsbury

We know that Oscar Wilde was hedonistic, sexually liberal, flamboyant and a supreme intellectual, but what has been lesser known – until now – is that these are characteristics he picked up from his scintillating mother and eminent father. This exceptionally perceptive new angle on Wilde places him in a fascinating social and political context while exploring his family back-story in greater depth.



**The Pigeon Tunnel: Stories from My Life -- John le Carré**  
\$38, pb, Viking

Former MI6 officer John le Carré is the absolute master of chillingly evocative espionage novels. His enthralling memoir takes us on a sensational journey into the secret inner world of his former life as a spy and tells how this work informed his best-selling classic novels – like *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*.

— MEMOIR AND REPORTAGE —



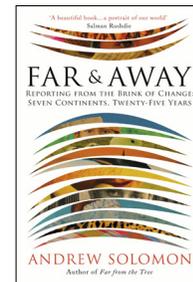
**The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between -- Hisham Matar**  
\$37, pb, Viking

A contemplation of family, exile, history and art, *The Return* has captured hearts and minds around the world. Matar returns to Libya to find his father, with the hope that he is still alive after being kidnapped by the Qaddafi regime years before. In doing so, Matar has created a remarkable memoir of hope, loss, anger, love and guilt – told with humanity and wisdom.



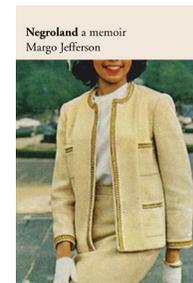
**The Way to the Spring: Life and Death in Palestine -- Ben Ehrenreich**  
\$37, pb, Granta

Ehrenreich has written an exceptional account of everyday life among Palestinians, based on three years of living with families in cities and villages in the West Bank. Ehrenreich captures the unique and punishing conditions of the occupation through the nuances of resistance and solidarity. *The Way to the Spring* recognises and respects hope and is an absolute must-read.



**Far & Away: Reporting from the Brink of Change: Seven Continents, Twenty-Five Years -- Andrew Solomon**  
\$40, pb, Chatto & Windus

*Far and Away* is a collection of Solomon's writing that covers a staggering scope of world events over the last 25 years: from Moscow in 1991 to Afghanistan in 2002 and Myanmar in 2014. *Far and Away* captures the impact of upheaval on the lives caught up in its fray, but also how those individuals can come to shape that fray. Solomon's perception is profound and his writing is diverse and revelatory.



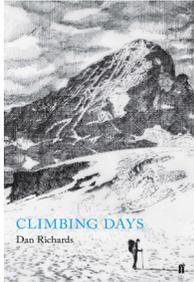
**Negroland: A Memoir -- Margo Jefferson**  
\$33, pb, Granta

Multiple literary award-winner Margo Jefferson's memoir describes what it's like, as a member of an upper-middle class black family, to breathe the rarefied air of privilege in a white world while being painfully aware of how provisional that privilege is. Traversing history and her life, this is an important reminder of how far away a post-racial America is.



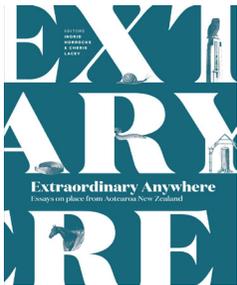
**White Sands: Experiences from the Outside World** -- Geoff Dyer  
\$37, pb, Text Publishing

With his wildly dexterous cultural knowledge and beautifully brittle dryness, Geoff Dyer can turn his hand to any topic and write about it from a completely different angle with his fierce intelligence and humour. In the episodic travel pieces in *White Sands*, Dyer questions why we travel; taking us on a personal journey from French Polynesia and New Mexico, and through Beijing's Forbidden City.



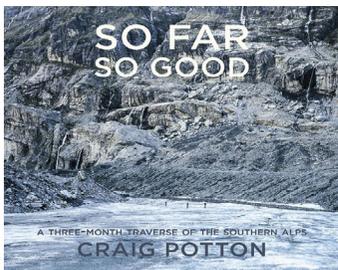
**Climbing Days** -- Dan Richards  
\$40, hb, Faber & Faber

Dan Richards' great-great-great-aunt was Dorothy Pilley, a pioneering mountaineer of the early 20th century. After discovering her 1935 memoir, Richards sets off on a journey to travel in her footsteps through Wales and Scotland, Spain and Switzerland. The image that emerges of the mysterious Pilley is beguiling in this blend of memoir, travelogue and a meditation on why people enjoy climbing mountains.



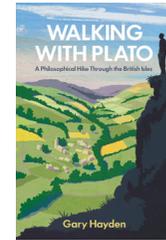
**Extraordinary Anywhere: Essays on Place from Aotearoa New Zealand** -- Ingrid Horrocks and Cherie Lacey (Editors)  
\$40, pb, Victoria University Press

'Any place might be extraordinary if only we knew it...' This beautiful and unique collection of thoughtful personal essays explores the idea of 'place' in Aotearoa. Childhood haunts, revisiting Samuel Butler's Erewhon, reoccupying Christchurch, and the Te Kuiti underground are some of the topics tackled by some of our best emerging and established writers.



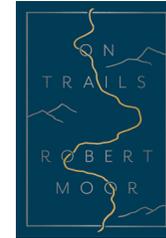
**So Far So Good: A Three-Month Traverse of the Southern Alps** -- Craig Potton  
\$50, hb, Potton & Burton Publishing

One of our most outstanding landscape photographers, Craig Potton, retraces the steps he took over 35 years ago when he completed a three-month trek of the Southern Alps: a trip that started at the Milford Sound and ended in Nelson Lakes National Park. Lovers of mountaineering and tramping will devour the lavish photographs he took on his journey.



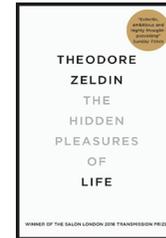
**Walking with Plato: A Philosophical Hike Through the British Isles**  
Gary Hayden -- \$33, hb, Oneworld

In this humorous and uplifting book, philosophy buff Gary Hayden takes Plato on a walk through the British countryside. On his long and not always picturesque journey between John O'Groats and Land's End, Hayden draws on Rousseau, Thoreau and Epicurus (among others) to instruct, provoke and entertain. This original and compelling book is a breath of fresh air.



**On Trails: From Anthills to The Alps, How Trails Make Sense of a Chaotic World** -- Robert Moor  
\$40, hb, Aurum Press

*On Trails* is a rich and thoughtful narrative of the paths and trails that people and creatures have walked over centuries. First-time author Robert Moor has put together a book that wanders amongst human history, community and philosophy, inspired by a five-month journey through the Appalachian Trail. Thoughtful and very enjoyable reading.



**The Hidden Pleasures of Life: A New Way of Remembering the Past and Imagining the Future** -- Theodore Zeldin  
\$28, pb, MacLehose Press

Theodore Zeldin's latest work, winner of Salon London's Transmission Prize 2016, is a captivating consideration of the way we can live our lives. Through a series of arresting questions Zeldin has created a book that reignites the desire to live well. A particularly excellent guide for young ones just venturing into the world of adulthood.



**Ethics in the Real World: 86 Brief Essays on Things That Matter**  
Peter Singer -- \$37, pb, Text Publishing

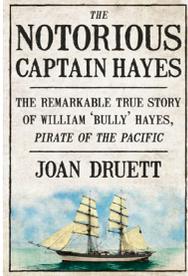
In this bold and captivating collection, Peter Singer explores the real-world ethics of contemporary philosophical questions, with his trademark wit. With subjects both prescient and controversial (climate change, poverty, animal personhood, art collecting, abortion, incest and more) Singer's book oscillates between the personal and universal with total mastery. Perfect for philosophy novices and veteran chin-strokers alike.



**The Art of Flight** -- Fredrik Sjöberg  
\$40, hb, Particular Books

In this second part to his autobiographical trilogy, Fredrik Sjöberg continues – in two tales of ambition, fear and romance – his exploration of the pleasures and trials of those who spend their time tracing the smallest details of the natural world. Calling on childhood memories and his later experience as a hoverfly collector, Sjöberg contemplates the richness of life and the strange paths it leads us on.

— HISTORY AND POLITICS —



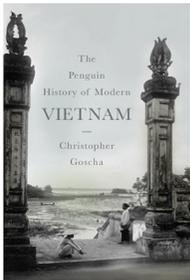
**The Notorious Captain Hayes: The Remarkable True Story of William 'Bully' Hayes, Pirate of the Pacific -- Joan Druett**  
\$37, pb, HarperCollins

William 'Bully' Hayes' legend has inspired authors, film-makers and the people of his times. Hayes' exploits were reconstructed by the papers of the day to build a narrative of romanticism and roguery that fed the appetites of their readers. Druett expertly unwraps the facts from the fantasies to reveal the man and the Pacific he sailed.



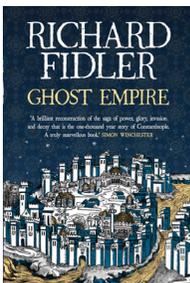
**Labour: The New Zealand Labour Party 1916-2016**  
Peter Franks and Jim McAloon  
\$50, pb, Victoria University Press

This year, The Labour Party celebrated their 100th anniversary of saving New Zealand democracy. Franks and McAloon have written an in-depth account that charts Labour's origins, political evolution and long-term commitment to social justice, focussing on Labour's trials and tribulations as it sought to define its economic and social visions for New Zealand. Vital political reading.



**The Penguin History of Modern Vietnam -- Christopher Goscha**  
\$75, hb, Allen Lane

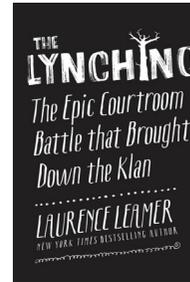
This long-awaited history of Vietnam by leading historian Christopher Goscha offers a comprehensive account of Vietnam's history and culture. Goscha presents a nation shaped by overwhelming internal and international pressures and describes Vietnam's role as both coloniser and colonised, and resilience in the face of constant invasion and shifting geographic boundaries.



**Ghost Empire -- Richard Fidler**  
\$45, hb, HarperCollins

*Ghost Empire* is a literary double-bill that tells the 1,000 year old story of Constantinople alongside Fidler's changing relationship with his son as they journey together through Istanbul. Fidler describes the complex and turbulent story of this legendary empire with passion, humour and vivid prose that brings the past and present together in a unique and captivating way.

— HISTORY AND POLITICS —



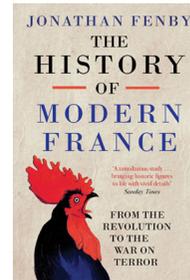
**The Lynching: The Epic Courtroom Battle That Brought Down the Klan**  
Laurence Leamer  
\$35, pb, HarperCollins

After a brutal 1981 Ku Klux Klan-sanctioned lynching in Mobile, Alabama, civil rights lawyer Morris Dees used the atrocity as a platform to attack and cripple the KKK in court. Leamer's vital book untangles the legal and social aspects of slavery's horrific legacy in the American South, while illuminating the powerful personalities who defined this fight. A truly compelling, real-life thriller.



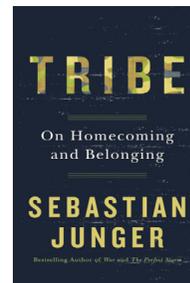
**Les Parisiennes: How the Women of Paris Lived, Loved and Died in the 1940s -- Anne Sebba**  
\$40, pb, Weidenfeld & Nicolson

*Les Parisiennes* is a fascinating account of one of the most turbulent periods in the 20th century, as seen through the lens of the women of Paris. From resistance workers to race car drivers, Nazi sympathisers to novelists, sex workers to spies, Sebba leaves no stone untouched. This is an evocative and gripping portrait of a city in crisis, and the extraordinary women who lived through it.



**The History of Modern France: From the Revolution to the War on Terror -- Jonathan Fenby**  
\$29, pb, Simon & Schuster

This well-researched and engaging history of modern France kicks off with the French Revolution and carries the reader through to the present day. Acclaimed historian and political commentator Jonathan Fenby navigates the last two hundred years with a deep and nuanced political understanding, drilling down into the psychology of a nation with astonishing detail.



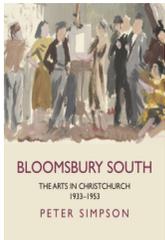
**Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging -- Sebastian Junger**  
\$28, pb, Fourth Estate

In this much-anticipated work, Junger meaningfully looks at the remnant trauma of the battlefield and its effect on the society awaiting returning soldiers. From an anthropological standpoint, Junger argues that the resulting trauma and alienation comes from our natural inclination to live in small, cooperative groups that give support and meaning to each other. Urgent and enlightening reading.



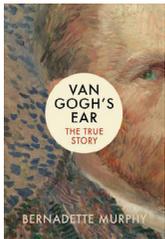
**This Model World: Travels to the Edge of Contemporary Art**  
Anthony Byrt -- \$45, pb, Auckland University Press

Award-winning art critic and journalist Anthony Byrt found himself suddenly back in New Zealand after a settled life in Berlin. Here, he discovered an art scene that had shifted and twisted since he departed and he has dived in to explore it. Composed after spending hundreds of hours in galleries and studios, this is a book about major figures and emerging artists in the New Zealand contemporary art world.



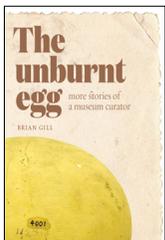
**Bloomsbury South: The Arts in Christchurch 1933-1953** -- Peter Simpson  
\$70, hb, Auckland University Press

Art, literature and music were pushed upwards and outwards in Christchurch over the two decades 1933-53, the history of which has been lovingly detailed by Peter Simpson in *Bloomsbury South*. Christchurch was a hotbed of creative exploration with Angus, Bensemann, Lilburn, Curnow, Glover and Baxter all calling the city home and all pushing the boundaries of their disciplines. A fascinating time in New Zealand arts history.



**Van Gogh's Ear: The True Story** -- Bernadette Murphy  
\$38, pb, Chatto & Windus

Genius, focussed, passionate, destitute – all terms we associate with the fabulous post-impressionist Vincent van Gogh; but perhaps this artist warrants a less romantic view? Chance led author Bernadette Murphy to investigate Van Gogh's life in Arles, Provence. This excellent detective story reveals as-yet-undiscovered surprises to do with the night Van Gogh removed his own left ear.



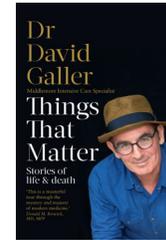
**The Unburnt Egg** -- Brian Gill  
\$38, pb, Awa Press

In the excellent *Owl That Fell From the Sky*, curator Brian Gill took us behind the scenes at the museum to explore stories of natural history collections. In *The Unburnt Egg*, Gill delves further into this fascinating world, exploring mysteries of extinct wildlife and odd natural occurrences. These stories are rich in scientific and historic detail – a true pleasure for the armchair explorer.



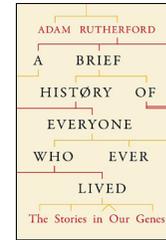
**Now I Sit Me Down: From Klismos to Plastic Chairs: A Natural History**  
Witold Rybczynski -- \$50, hb, Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Chairs! These ubiquitous objects beg the questions: How did they get here? Why are they this shape? And why do I occasionally have to sit on an uncomfortable one? As Rybczynski tells it, the way we choose to sit and what we choose to sit on speak volumes about our values, our tastes and the things we hold dear. This book will be a pleasure for fans of design and lovers of object histories.



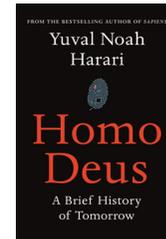
**Things That Matter: Stories of Life and Death from an Intensive Care Specialist** -- David Galler  
\$37, pb, Allen & Unwin

Dr David Galler, Intensive Care Specialist at Auckland's Middlemore Hospital, tells stories of life and death interwoven with his own family life and challenges. Dr Galler's work has been influenced by his experience of the kindness, resilience and dignity of families and patients; his resulting realistic optimism and care infuses these stories with an inspiring generosity.



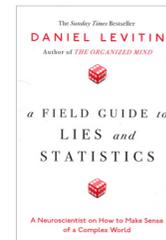
**A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived** -- Adam Rutherford  
\$40, pb, Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Geneticist, science writer and broadcaster Dr Adam Rutherford delves into the genetic history of you: who you are and where you came from. Rutherford argues that our genomes should be read not as instruction manuals but as epic poems, revealing more of us as a species than we ever knew. From Neanderthals and dead royals to redheads and epigenetics, Rutherford presents a revealing portrait of humanity.



**Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow** -- Yuval Noah Harari  
\$40, pb, Harvill Secker

In *Sapiens*, Harari explored how the currents of history shaped humanity; in *Homo Deus* he looks at how humanity may in turn shape the future. Where we will we go from here, what challenges we'll set ourselves and how we can redirect our destructive powers toward creation. *Homo Deus* charts our future evolution, describing what may be an inevitable destiny.



**A Field Guide to Lies and Statistics** -- Daniel Levitin  
\$37, pb, Viking

Disraeli (according to Mark Twain) said there are lies, damned lies and statistics. Levitin warns that bad data is ubiquitous and once accepted is hard to dislodge from our stubborn minds. We're introduced, with charm and humour, to critical thinking tools that allow one to parse the storms of lies and faulty statistics that assail us daily. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.



**Blueprint for a Battlestar: Serious Scientific Explanations behind Sci-Fi's Greatest Inventions** -- Rod Pyle  
\$45, hb, Aurum Press

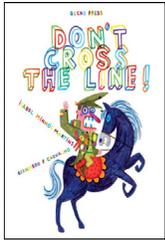
Ever wanted to build your own interstellar nano-probes? Construct your own Deathstar? Build a Dyson Sphere? Well, read on. NASA scientist Rod Pyle breaks down sci-fi's greatest inventions, explaining what we'll need to build the tools required to take over the world, or at least blow up the moon. You know it's serious because there are 75 exclusive and awesome illustrations.

— YOUNGER READERS —



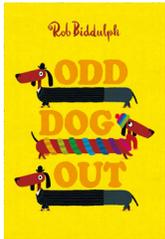
**Animals** -- Ingela P. Arrhenius  
\$40, hb, Walker Books, 2+

Using striking illustrations and bold typography, renowned illustrator Ingela P. Arrhenius introduces younger readers to thirty animals. Covering creatures from the African Savanna to the Northern Wilderness plus a few you can spot in your back garden, with a stunning retro design that keeps kids and adults entertained throughout.



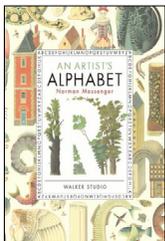
**Don't Cross the Line!** -- Bernardo Carvalho and Isabel Martins  
\$30, hb, Gecko Press, 5+

*Don't Cross the Line* is a visually hectic, laugh out loud masterpiece from Gecko Press. The beautiful and chaotic felt-tip-penned illustrations breathe life into this book, which is filled to the brim with eclectic characters. This is more than just a visual cacophony, however: this book is a profound statement on dictatorship and peaceful revolution.



**Odd Dog Out** -- Rob Biddulph  
\$20, hb, HarperCollins 2+

This bold and quirky picture book by Unity favourite Rob Biddulph is the story of a dachshund who, in classic bildungsroman style, feels like the odd dog out and embarks (no pun intended) on a journey to find herself. With bright illustrations and an offbeat sense of humour, we're sure this will be a bedtime story on high rotation.



**An Artist's Alphabet** -- Norman Messenger  
\$33, hb, Walker, all ages

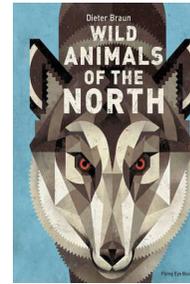
*An Artist's Alphabet* is the astonishing new book by acclaimed illustrator Norman Messenger. The concept is simple – each letter of the alphabet is re-imagined in lavish detail, with plenty of visual twists, sometimes verging on optical illusion. This is a painstakingly beautiful book that draws the reader in, and there are plenty of hidden gems which reward re-reading.



**A Child of Books** -- Oliver Jeffers  
\$30, hb, Walker, 5+

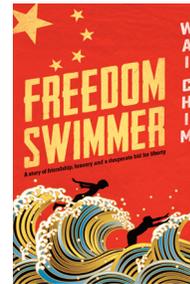
From the creator of *Lost and Found* and *Heart in a Bottle* comes an enchanting new picture book about the importance of books and the enduring power of the imagination. When a little girl sets sail on a raft of words she meets a friend, and together they journey through a landscape made of fairy tale, imagination and song.

— YOUNGER READERS —



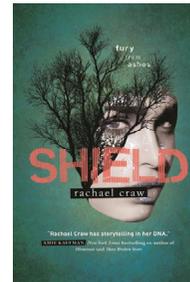
**Wild Animals of the North** -- Dieter Braun  
\$45, hb, Flying Eye Books, 5+

Flying Eye Books are becoming known for their exquisitely illustrated picture books. *Wild Animals of the North* features Braun's illustrations of animals from the Northern Hemisphere, alongside descriptions that are both funny and fascinating. This is not the ghost of encyclopaedias past, this is a bold and captivating new work for a new generation.



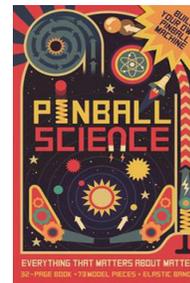
**The Freedom Swimmer** -- Wai Chim  
\$19, pb, Allen & Unwin, 11+

This engrossing new Young Adult novel is based on an incredible true story from the time of China's 'Great Leap Forward'. The tale follows the relationship between two boys – Ming, an orphan from rural China, and Li, who has been sent to Ming's village by the communist party. Together they begin to imagine a journey to freedom – swimming from mainland China to Hong Kong.



**Shield** -- Rachael Crow  
\$22, pb, Walker Books, 14+

*Shield*, by New Zealand Young Adult author Rachael Crow, is the eagerly anticipated third – and final – book in her *Spark* trilogy. The series follows Evie, genetically compelled to act as a 'shield' for an increasingly corrupt and dystopic government. *Shield* sees Evie, who has joined a resistance movement, forced to make impossible choices in order to protect those she loves. For fans of *The Hunger Games* and Scott Westerfeld.



**Pinball Science** -- Ian Graham  
\$33, box set, Crows Nest, all ages

This excellent new book by Ian Graham teaches kids the basics of physics by showing them how to make their own working pinball machine. With 73 model pieces and more rubber bands than you can flick at your younger brother, this is a fun and interactive new approach to science for the young and not-so-young.

— BIBLIOGRAPHY —



**The New Torchlight List**

**Jim Flynn**

\$36, pb, Awa Press

*The Torchlight List* took readers by storm on publication and remains an important touchstone for those who want to cover all the bases of 20th century history and society. In this follow-up, Professor Jim Flynn provides us with a new reading checklist to push our brains to think hard about what makes a particular book excellent. Besides, is there really anything more fun than marking off the books you have already read?

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