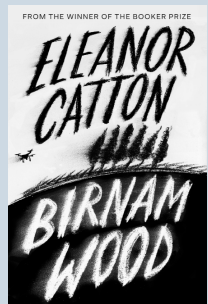


March highlights

The best books as chosen by Australia's leading booksellers

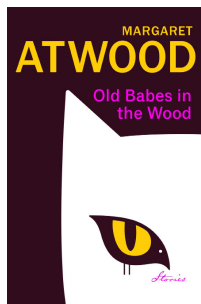
Adult Fiction



Birnam Wood Eleanor Catton

Granta
TPB \$32.99

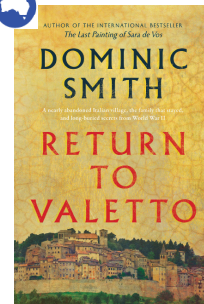
Eleanor Catton returns with an eco-thriller involving a guerrilla gardening collective—named Birnam Wood—founded by Mira Bunting. The collective has survived for five years by growing food on unused land, but when Mira comes across billionaire Robert Lemoine he makes her an offer they cannot refuse. An intellectual thriller that maintains its pace right until the end, *Birnam Wood* is a treat from the Booker Prize winner.



Old Babes in the Wood Margaret Atwood

Chatto & Windus
HB \$45.00

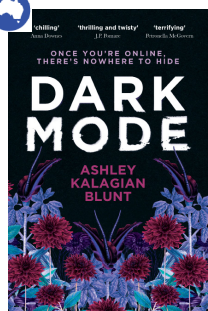
The beautifully depicted stories of the love and lives of Nell and Tig bookend this spellbinding short story collection. *Old Babes in the Wood* features an array of characters from George Orwell and Martha Gellhorn, to an alien retelling human fairy tales. This mesmerising collection of short fiction showcases Margaret Atwood's narrative genius and boundless imagination at their very best.



Return to Valetto Dominic Smith

Allen & Unwin
TPB \$32.99

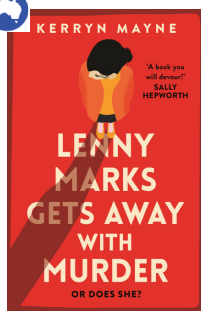
Hugh, a history professor, travels to his family's village in Umbria to work in the quiet and beautiful environs of his childhood holidays. He is shocked to arrive at the family cottage and find it occupied by a woman who claims his grandfather promised it to her family during the war. Past, present, food, family and love are all explored in this gorgeous tale from Dominic Smith.



Dark Mode Ashley Kalagian Blunt

Ultimo Press
TPB \$34.99

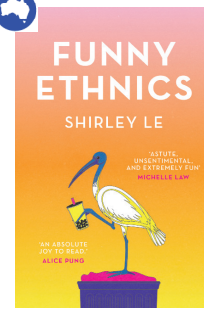
When Reagan Carsen stumbles across a murdered woman who looks identical to her, she knows the stalker she thought she'd outrun years ago has returned. A riveting psychological thriller drawn from true events, *Dark Mode* delves into the terrifying reality of the dark web, and the price we pay for surrendering our privacy one click at a time.



Lenny Marks Gets Away with Murder Kerryn Mayne

Bantam Australia
TPB \$32.99

Lenny Marks has spent her life trying to forget the day her mother abandoned her. Now 37, she prefers contentment and order over the unreliability of happiness and the messiness of relationships. When a letter arrives from the Adult Parole Board, Lenny's careful life begins to unravel and unwanted memories come flooding back.

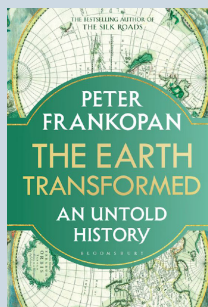


Funny Ethnics Shirley Le

Affirm Press
TPB \$29.99

Funny Ethnics catapults through the life of Sylvia Nguyen, the wannabe hipster child of Vietnamese refugee parents struggling to find her way through the world. This is a funhouse mirror of a novel, revealing and distorting suburban life in contemporary Western Sydney and revealing how slippery the ever-changing beast of identity can be.

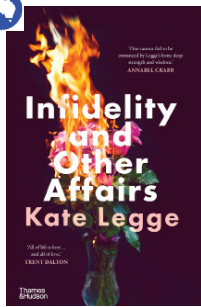
Non-Fiction



The Earth Transformed Peter Frankopan

Bloomsbury
TPB \$39.99

When we think about history, we rarely pay much attention to the most destructive floods, the worst winters, the most devastating droughts, or the ways that ecosystems have changed over time. In *The Earth Transformed*, bestselling historian Frankopan shows that the natural environment is a crucial, if not the defining, factor in global history for humans and beyond.



Infidelity and Other Affairs Kate Legge

Thames & Hudson Australia
TPB \$34.99

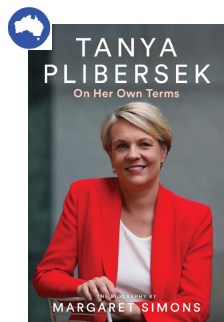
Is unfaithfulness in marriage a hereditary trait or learned behaviour? How do you go on when your life crashes down around you? Kate Legge's collection of essays on the passages of life, centred around the main story of surviving and rebuilding life in the wake of her husband's infidelity is as rich, heartbreaking, wise and ultimately hopeful as life itself.



Gigorou Sasha Kutabah Sarago

Pantera Press
TPB \$34.99

Sasha Kutabah Sarago, creator of viral 2021 TED talk 'The (De)colonising of Beauty', now brings us *Gigorou*, meaning 'beautiful'. Using First Nations wisdom and womanhood, she takes a powerful look at the inner workings of the beauty industry to better understand the interconnectedness of Aboriginal culture and resolve our relationship with beauty and our selves.



Tanya Plibersek
Margaret Simons

Black Inc.
TPB \$34.99

Journalist, commentator, and biographer Margaret Simons brings us a portrait of a woman with a deep belief in a fairer, more just society. Simons shows us the machinations of the Labor Party and the roles Plibersek has played since 1998 and her journey from one time member of the Nuclear Disarmament Party to cabinet minister.



Did I Ever Tell You This?
Sam Neill

Text Publishing
HB \$49.99

Sam Neill's unmissable memoir is revealing, heart-warming and often hilarious, as he recounts the unpredictable turns of fortune that have defined his life. Born in Northern Ireland, he emigrated to New Zealand at seven; an unlikely place from which to launch a celebrated acting career. Neill has worked with many greats and appeared in almost 100 feature films: let him tell you all about it.

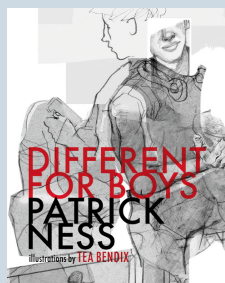


On Women
Susan Sontag

Hamish Hamilton
HB \$29.99

Compiled from Sontag's striking essays on the second-wave feminism of the 1970s, *On Women* tackles gendered labour, the double-standards of ageing and the dynamics of women's powerlessness and strengths. This is feminist commentary that remains relevant even 50 years later, all told with Sontag's sharp and empathetic style.

Children & Young Adults



Different for Boys
Patrick Ness & Tea Bendix

(Illus.)
Walker Books
HB \$24.99

Ideal reading for all fans of

Heartstopper and Casey McQuiston, this funny, relevant, and sensitively handled LGBTQ+ novel from Patrick Ness, twice Carnegie Medal-winner and bestselling author of the *Chaos Walking* trilogy finds loveable Ant navigating his radically different relationships with a trio of boys. This is an important story about inclusivity, prejudice, and friendship.



The Isabelle Stories: Volume One: Izzy & Belle
Jane Godwin & Robin Cowcher

(Illus.)
Lothian Children's Books
PB \$14.99

Isabelle is a thoughtful 6-year-

old in Grade 1 Beautifully illustrated by Robin Cowcher, this is a sweet collection of illustrated stories perfect for a reader embarking on their first journey into chapter books. Jane Godwin is a gem and her stories always hit the mark.



The Hats of Marvello
Amanda Graham & Lavanya Naidu

(Illus.)
HarperCollins Australia
HB \$19.99

A talking rabbit is just one of the many magical

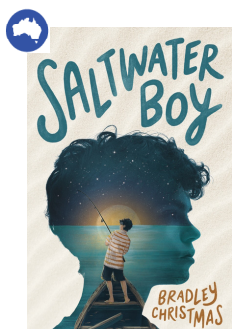
elements in *The Hats of Marvello*. Olive is in Year 5 and lives on a dusty wheat farm. She longs for a pet rabbit, but her community think they are nothing but pests. With subtle environmental and imaginative life lessons, this adventure-filled story will appeal to young and old alike!



The Glow
Sofie Laguna & Marc McBride

(Illus.)
Allen & Unwin
PB \$16.99

Megan and her best friend Li are the perfect creative duo; Megan draws fantastical creatures and Li writes the stories that accompany them. When a mysterious glow immobilises their town through phone screens, the two must pit all their creativity and courage against the terrifying monster that threatens their home. A wonderfully spooky middle-grade read.

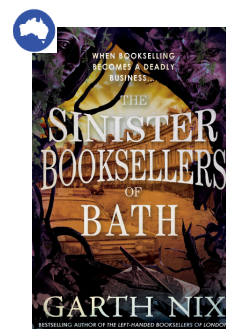


Saltwater Boy
Bradley Christmas

Walker Books Australia
PB \$18.99

After Matthew's dad goes to jail, he and his mum move to the coast to get back on their feet. With the help of Old

Bill, Matthew learns to love and care for his new home, but once Dad gets out on parole, it feels like everything is again at risk. A heartfelt coming-of-age story about father-son relationships, buried truths, and environmental care.



The Sinister Booksellers of Bath
Garth Nix

(Illus.)
Allen & Unwin
TPB \$24.99

Set in an alternate 1980s London, Garth Nix's amazing worldbuilding takes siblings and booksellers Merlin and Vivian on an amazing fantasy adventure. With magical maps, animated statues and even a serial killer, this fast-paced plot will keep readers intrigued right to the end. Whilst it is a sequel to *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London*, first time readers of this series can still enjoy.