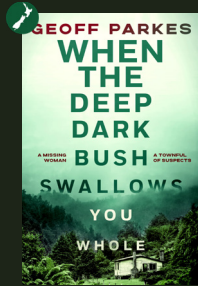


february highlights

featured review



When the Deep, Dark Bush Swallows You Whole

Geoff Parkes

Penguin Random House
TPB \$38.00

The disappearance of Finnish backpacker, Sanna, shakes a small town in King Country, New Zealand in this debut novel by Geoff Parkes. Darkly atmospheric from beginning to end, this book grew on me slowly but surely like the lichen growing on the fence posts in the fictional town of Nashville. Jumping between before and after Sanna goes missing, the story unfolds through the voices of the many townspeople, focusing on Ryan who was closest to her. The suspense builds as each chapter gives you an intimate glimpse into the lives of the community as their secrets come spilling out. My favourite thing about the novel was its strong sense of place. Capturing small-town mentality perfectly, Geoff has woven a gritty, suspenseful, and unsettling story set in our own backyard.

— Rachel at The Booklover Bookshop in Milford, 2024 Bookshop of the Year

adult fiction



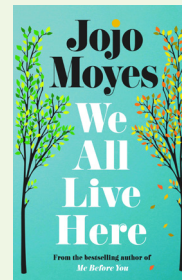
Star Gazers

Duncan Sarkies

Te Herenga Waka University Press
PB \$38.00

Flight of the Conchords writer Duncan Sarkies delivers a timely, absurdist novel which is described as "Succession but with alpacas." The

alpacas are nervous. Amid accusations of a rigged election, fear of a mysterious illness, censorship on the Alpaca News and skullduggery threatening the Breeders Showcase, a forthright vet and a diplomatic engineer are determined to protect the herds and restore democracy.



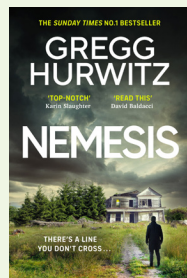
We All Live Here

Jojo Moyes

Penguin Random House
TPB \$38.00

Lila Kennedy has a lot on her plate: a recently broken marriage, wayward family members, a house that is falling apart and a writing

career in freefall. So when her birth father – a man she has barely seen since he ran off to Hollywood thirty-five years ago – suddenly appears on her doorstep wanting to make amends, it feels like the final straw. But it turns out even the family you thought you could never forgive might have something to teach you.



Nemesis

Gregg Hurwitz

Penguin Random House
TPB \$38.00

Orphan X returns in this nail-biting adventure. Former government black ops assassin, Evan Smoak, is loyal to a fault and will do anything for the few people he calls his friends. When his long-time gunsmith and armourer, Tommy Stojack, betrays him, it's war. Evan Smoak is not to be messed with and, like any good assassin, he knows to keep his friends close but his weapons closer. This new instalment will have you on the edge of your seat.

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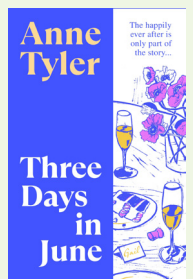
The Paris Daughter

Soraya Lane

Hachette NZ
TPB \$37.99

Fans of Lucinda Riley will love Soraya Lane's emotional family saga. When Blake finds a faded dress design among her belongings, she

realises that the designer's signature could be the clue she needs to finally track down her biological family. Blake's journey takes her to Paris where she crosses paths with a handsome fashion curator. Together they uncover her great-grandmother's legacy and the forbidden romance that set the fashion world ablaze.



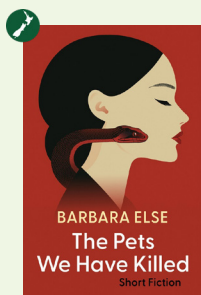
Three Days in June

Anne Tyler

Penguin Random House
HB \$36.00

Nothing is going right for Gail Baines. The day before her daughter's wedding she loses her job and is left out of her daughter's pre-wedding

spa. Then, her ex-husband turns up out of the blue, with a cat, expecting to stay for the festivities. Just as Gail is wondering what's next, her daughter discovers her groom has been keeping a secret, exposing deeper sensitivities and making for three wild, funny and emotional days in June.



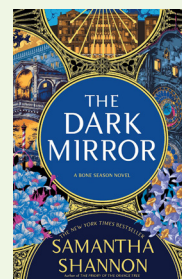
The Pets We Have Killed

Barbara Else

Quentin Wilson Publishing
PB \$35.00

A collection of eighteen short stories marking Barbara Else's return to adult fiction. In 1959 a

schoolgirl is caught in the rivalry between two male teachers. In 1982 a New Zealander in her thirties is introduced to a snake in San Diego. In 2075 a government official drafts a summary of the first stage in NZ's new-style elections. With ranging genre and Barbara Else' trademark wit, the stories all explore how the problems women face change little as time passes.



The Dark Mirror

Samantha Shannon

Bloomsbury
TPB \$36.99

Paige Mahoney, with her memory newly wiped, has left the Republic of Scion for the first time in a decade. She must return to the revolution

in London, but she arrives in Venice and discovers a dangerous secret, one that could change the course of the war. Can Paige save Italy and recover her lost memories? And is Arcturus Mesarthim the key to it all? The Dark Mirror – the fifth novel in the Bone Season series – delivers it all.



The Night of the Scourge

Lars Mytting

Hachette NZ
TPB \$37.99

Astrid's grandmother was the protector of the mythic Sister Bells and Astrid has inherited her fighting spirit. Meanwhile,

the local priest is wondering how his prophesied death will come to pass, leading him to the myth of the Night of the Scourge that foretells the destruction of the known world. When WWII hits, the journey really begins in this lyrical and moving novel that interweaves Norwegian folklore with a story of hardship and passion.



The Crash

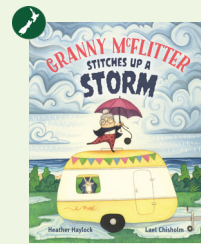
Freida McFadden

Penguin Random House
TPB \$38.00

Tegan – eight months pregnant, desperate and alone – decides to travel to stay with her brother while she figures her life out. But when a blizzard

hits, Tegan never arrives at her destination. Stranded in rural Maine, she is rescued by an older couple who offer her a room while the snow clears. But something isn't right. As the snow melts it becomes clear they have no intention of letting Tegan go.

children's fiction



Granny McFlitter Stitches Up a Storm

Heather Haylock and Lael Chisholm

Penguin Random House
PB \$21.00

Granny McFlitter is ready for some sun and surf, but when wild weather tears apart the campground, can our favourite champion knitter use her speedy needles to turn a stormy beach holiday into a triumph? With bouncing rhyme and exuberant illustrations from the award-winning writer and illustrator team, kids will love this wet-weather adventure!



Kuwi's Fluey Huwi

Kat Quin

Illustrated Publishing
PB \$19.99

When Kuwi's chick, Huwi, catches a cold, Kuwi sets off on a mission to track down a cure for her cheeky chick. She will try anything from glittering goo and raw claw concoction to flutter therapy, but Huwi's sniffles persist. What will Kuwi do? Delightfully unique and unmistakably Kiwi, this chaotic adventure will bring laughter to the whole family as they learn about our native flora and fauna.



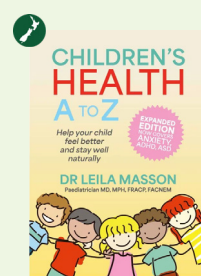
A Guide to Rocks

Sacha Cotter and Josh Morgan

Huia Publishers
PB \$26.00

Charlie's been feeling down recently. It feels like he's got a big rock (feeling) that just won't go away. For their dad, the rule for dealing with rocks is to not talk about rocks. But this just makes things worse. The rocks only get bigger and darker and scarier. Together, they need to figure out some new rules. This is a book about difficult feelings and discovering the tools that can help us through.

children's non-fiction



Children's Health A-Z

Dr Leila Masson

Bateman Books
PB \$39.99

This expanded edition provides not only practical advice for parents on how to manage common childhood illnesses, but includes new chapters focused on understanding and supporting children's mental health. Compassionate and comprehensive, this guide offers expert advice to help parents nurture their children's overall wellbeing.

adult non-fiction



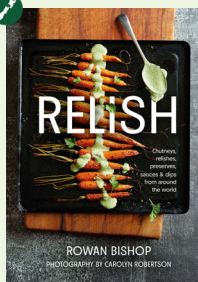
Mrs D is (Not) on a Diet

Lotta Dann

Allen & Unwin NZ
TPB \$37.99

Why do we believe that to be healthy you must be skinny? Why do so many of us hate our bodies? And why do we spend so much

time, money and energy trying to shrink ourselves? For addiction-recovery advocate Lotta Dann, the answers surprised her, angered her and ultimately empowered her. She thinks they will do the same for you. This book recounts her eye-opening journey with extreme dieting and drastic weight loss.



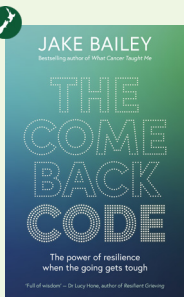
Relish

Rowan Bishop

Bateman Books
PB \$45.00

Following on from her hugely successful 2013 book, Rowan Bishop is back with an expanded edition that offers a condiment for every

occasion. As more and more people desire to eat seasonally and sustainably, preserving is having a renaissance. This book includes over 90 beautifully photographed recipes to ensure you make the most of every fruit and vegetable in your pantry while packing a flavourful punch.



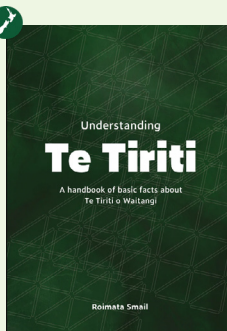
The Comeback Code

Jake Bailey

Allen & Unwin NZ
TPB \$37.99

A straight-up guide to getting through life's ups and downs. Big-hearted and full of wisdom, this is a book about adversity and resilience. Jake Bailey

is a cancer survivor and has been recognised as one of our most promising emerging leaders. Jake's vision is to equip the next generation with the tools to meet life's challenges. This book is about what to do when life throws you a curveball – not only how to cope, but how to thrive.



Understanding Te Tiriti

Roimata Smail

Wai Ako Books
PB \$25.00

Roimata Smail distills essential information for every individual in Aotearoa. Leveraging her two decades of legal expertise in

Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Smail presents the facts in a way that is easy to digest. The use of accessible language and beautiful design ensures that the handbook is understandable for everyone who picks it up. This book is suitable for adults and younger readers.



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