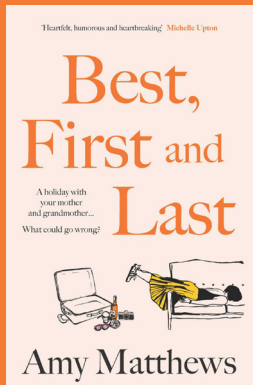


march highlights



featured review



Best, First and Last Amy Matthews

Simon & Schuster
TPB \$38.00

Amy Matthews delivers a warm hug and a light smack on the hand with this witty rollercoaster of a book. It's about grandmother-mother-daughter bonds, and the surprising amount of emotional baggage that can be unpacked on a (reluctant) hiking trip to Peru.

Each character was portrayed with such tender care and loving grace, inviting me to linger with them a while. The fullness of the characters made for such an engaging read and the merging of the past and present storylines was seamless. At no point did the switching between character perspectives feel awkward. Indeed, it was refreshing to spend time with both Bonnie's enduring liveliness and Heather's quiet determination.

Heather and Owen's romance was charming, just the right balance of swoon-worthy exchanges and grounded conversations. Given just as much space as the romance is the complexity of three generations of women trying to understand each other, or at least to co-exist.

Matthews perfectly encapsulates the struggle of establishing and maintaining boundaries with family members while still holding empathy and space for them – and does so with heart-warming hilarity. An absolute delight to read!

– Kazia at Scorpio Books, Christchurch

adult fiction



One Hundred Years of Betty Debra Oswald

Allen & Unwin
TPB \$38.00

Meet Betty: storyteller, feminist, eternally curious and phenomenally old. On the eve of her hundredth birthday party, Betty tells her story. Born into poverty in pre-war London, and growing up fast during the Blitz, Betty grabs the chance at a bigger life by migrating to Australia. On board the SS *Asturias* she meets three people who will influence the course of her life. Set against a century of world events and social upheavals, Betty is one ordinary extraordinary woman living through a century of massive change.



The Strange Case of Jane O. Karen Thompson Walker

Allen & Unwin
TPB \$38.00

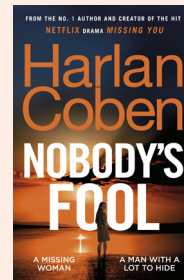
A young mother, Jane O., arrives in a psychiatrist's office. She's been suffering a series of worrying episodes: amnesia, premonitions, hallucinations and an inexplicable sense of dread. But as the psychiatrist struggles to solve the mystery of what is happening in Jane's mind, she suddenly goes missing. She is found a day later, unconscious in a park, but with no memory of what has happened to her. Jane's symptoms will lead her psychiatrist to question everything he once thought he knew...



Too Soon Betty Shamieh

Simon & Schuster
TPB \$37.99

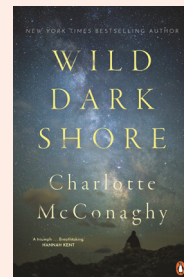
This funny, sexy and heart-rending tale follows three generations of Palestinian American women. Arabella gets an unexpected chance at love when she's thrust into a conflict and history that she's tried to avoid all her life. Zoya is playing matchmaker for her last unmarried granddaughter and stirring up buried memories. And Naya is keeping a secret from her children that will change all their lives. *Too Soon* brings the humour and sparkle of *Sex and the City* to a heart-wrenching family saga.



Nobody's Fool Harlan Coben

Penguin Random House
TPB \$38.00

Former Detective Sami Kierce's past is catching up with him. Twenty-two years after the devastating and unsolved death of his girlfriend Anna, Sami is teaching night-classes to wannabe sleuths when he sees an alarmingly familiar face at the back of his classroom. He knows it's Anna, but that should be impossible. His memory is clear, but all these years later, the facts don't add up. It's time to solve the mystery that's always haunted him.



Wild Dark Shore Charlotte McConaghy

Penguin Random House
TPB \$38.00

Dominic Salt and his three children are caretakers of Shearwater, a tiny island off Antarctica. Home to the world's largest seed bank, Shearwater was once full of researchers, but the Salts are now its final inhabitants. That is until a terrible storm hits, and a woman mysteriously washes up on shore. So used to isolation, the Salts are initially suspicious of the woman, Rowan, until they realise she might be exactly what they need to feel like a family again. But Rowan isn't telling the whole truth about why she set out for Shearwater... and Dominic is keeping his own secrets.



Twist Colum McCann

Bloomsbury
TPB \$37.00

Journalist Anthony Fennell is in pursuit of a story buried at the bottom of the sea, namely the network of tiny fibre-optic tubes that carry the world's information across the ocean floor and what happens when they break. Travelling to Cape Town, he boards a cable-repair vessel captained by the mysterious John Conway along with his beautiful partner, Zanele, and a crew of drifters. When the mission falters, Anthony and John learn that the very cables they seek to fix may carry the news that will cause their lives to unravel.



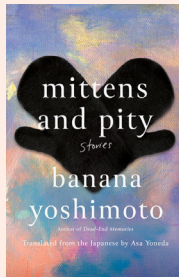
Marble Hall Murders

Anthony Horowitz

Penguin Random House
TPB \$38.00

Beleaguered editor Susan Ryeland's newest project is working with a young author, Eliot Crace, who is the grandson of celebrated children's

author Miriam Crace. When Miriam died twenty years ago, everyone thought it was natural causes. But Eliot is convinced she was poisoned, and he's hidden the identity of her killer inside his book. Susan's doubtful at first but the plot thickens. Before long, it's all on her to piece the clues together because someone in Eliot's family doesn't want the book to be published. And they will do anything to prevent it.



Mittens and Pity: Stories

Banana Yoshimoto

Allen & Unwin
TPB \$38.00

A couple takes a honeymoon to Helsinki after both their mothers, who were against their marriage, pass away. A

woman travels to Taipei after her mother's death, slowly adjusting to her new freedom and loneliness. After the accidental death of her best friend, a woman follows her last footsteps through Rome, encountering the person who has been holding her friend's final message. Yoshimoto's new collection of stories reflects on grief and the pain of recent loss.



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adult non-fiction



Pātaka Kai

Jessica Hutchings & Jo Smith

Massey University Press
HB \$45.00

This book promotes food as a pathway to hope and wellbeing. As we face a biodiversity

crisis and a climate meltdown, indigenous practices and understandings of kai offer important pathways to ensuring ecological, cultural and socio-economic sustainability as well as greater connection to kai in our everyday lives. This book salutes indigenous food heroes from across Aotearoa, and our neighbouring islands, who take a holistic approach that considers the interconnectedness of people, land and food.



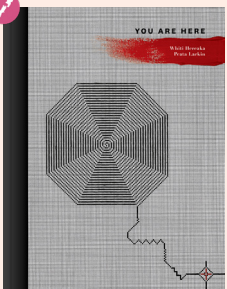
Toitū te Whenua

Lauren Keenan

Penguin Random House
PB \$45.00

This comprehensive guidebook journeys through the pivotal sites of the New Zealand Wars,

from the Far North to the top of the South Island, offering a unique perspective on events that shaped Aotearoa New Zealand. With engaging and insightful commentary, detailed maps and easy-to-follow driving directions, this is the perfect companion for exploring these historic sites. As the only guide of its kind written from a Māori viewpoint, it is an invaluable resource for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand history.



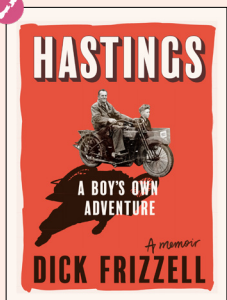
You Are Here

Whiti Hereaka & Peata Larkin

Massey University Press
HB \$45.00

The sixth book in the remarkable kōrero series, edited by Lloyd Jones, is a unique collaboration of words and art. It

features award-winning writer Whiti Hereaka and acclaimed artist Peata Larkin. Hereaka's words spiral out to the centre of the book and then back in on themselves to end with the same words with which the text began. As the pattern spools out and then folds back, Peata Larkin's meticulous drawings of tāniko and whakairo and her lush works on silk weave their own entrancing pattern.



Hastings: A Boy's Own Adventure

Dick Frizzell

Massey University Press
HB \$37.00

A loving memoir set in small-town New Zealand by one of our best-known painters. Dick Frizzell's memoir is charming

and big-hearted. It's an endearing, and at times hilarious, love letter to his hometown, Hastings, and the weirdly innocent world of the 1950s and early 1960s.

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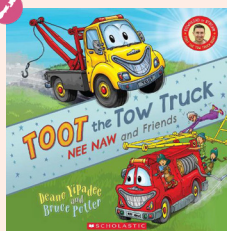
picture books



Bluey and Bingo's Book of Singy Things

Bluey
Penguin Random House
PB \$21.00

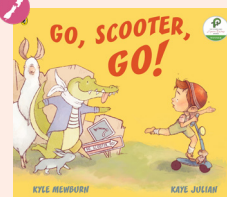
Bluey and Bingo love to sing! They love to make up fun songs for their games, and now you can learn the words and sing along with them! This tabbed board book includes songs such as "Poor Little Bug on the Wall," "The Wheels on the Bus" and many more.



Toot the Tow Truck - Nee Naw and Friends

Deano Yipadee & Bruce Potter
Scholastic
PB \$21.99

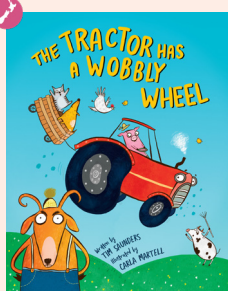
Granny's goats have been joy-riding on Farmer Tom's tractor and have got themselves in a bit of a pickle - the tractor's stuck in a pond, and they're stuck up a tree! Nee Naw and his friend Toot the Tow Truck are here to save the day.



Go, Scooter, Go!

Kaye Julian & Kyle Mewburn
Penguin Random House
PB \$21.00

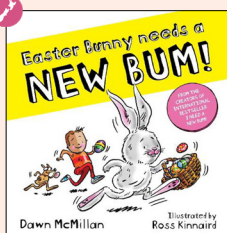
HONK! HONK! TOOT! TOOT! Where are you racing off to, Hugo? And why is there an enormous traffic jam? With a huff, a puff, a whoosh and a swerve, on Hugo's dash to his destination he zips and zooms past all sorts of vehicles in a muddle. Full of energy and zest, with lots of details to spot, this story romps along to its very funny ending.



The Tractor Has a Wobbly Wheel

Tim Saunders & Carla Martell
Allen & Unwin
PB \$22.99

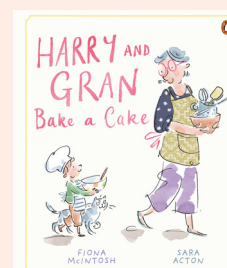
Oh no, the tractor keeps breaking down! Call in the farm animals: they will sort it! How do you fix a wobbly tractor wheel? Goat and pig and horse and friends have plenty of ideas. But which one will work?



Easter Bunny needs a NEW BUM!

Dawn McMillan & Ross Kinnaird
Oratia Media
PB \$21.00

Easter Bunny has arrived to hide the Easter eggs in our hero's garden, but something doesn't look quite right. I'm looking... I'm looking... What do I see? Oh, there's nothing at all where his tail should be! Red Pants Boy has another bumergency on his hands and of course he has an eggcellent idea to help Easter Bunny. Together they race around the garden to hide the eggs before the family wakes up.



Harry and Gran Bake a Cake

Fiona McIntosh & Sara Acton
Penguin Random House
HB \$24.00

Harry and Gran are going to bake a cake. What could possibly go wrong? A funny and charming story of a gran and her grandchild sharing the joy of baking together and embracing the hilarious mishaps that occur along the way. *Harry and Gran Bake a Cake* is a picture book celebration of family, food and fun!

fiction



Frog, Log and Dave Almost Save the Day

Trent Jamieson & Brent Wilson
Penguin Random House
HB \$23.00

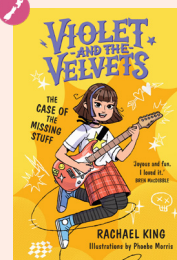
A must-read graphic novel adventure! Join Frog, Log and Dave as they bumble and hustle their way through Count Evil von Evil's dastardly plot to wreak havoc on Town City. With quick wit and a generous supply of jelly babies, can they save the day and convince the evil Count's pollutobomb creation to NOT explode?



Bear

Kiri Lightfoot
Allen & Unwin
PB \$28.00

Jasper Robinson-Woods is not okay - his name is too long, his mum has an annoying boyfriend, he never sees his dad, and he can't sleep because of a terrifying nightmare. Oh, and to top it off, his goldfish is dying. Jasper is overwhelmed with bad thoughts and the only place he feels safe is in the tree in his front yard. But then the unimaginable happens: his nightmare comes to life and everything spirals out of control. Jasper decides it's finally time to face his fears.



Violet and the Velvets: The Case of the Missing Stuff

Rachael King
Allen & Unwin
PB \$18.99

Violet Grumble is a music-loving, guitar-toting tween whose dream is to compete at BandChamps. The problem is that none of her friends can play an instrument. Violet won't let that stop her! But things get tougher when the band's gear starts to go missing. Can Violet solve the mystery and harness her ADHD powers? And can she help the Velvets overcome stage fright AND beat the Alphas at the final showdown? After all, you only need three chords to play a song. How hard can it be?



Eye of the Dragon

Susan Brocker
Scholastic
PB \$21.00

One day, sick of being bullied and ignored, Thomas takes off to the beach where he discovers an injured dragon in a cave. He is frightened at first but soon a friendship is sparked. Determined to help the dragon he's called Puff, Thomas confides in his friend Huhana, who tells him about Māori taniwha that were believed to sometimes act as protective guardians. With the help of his friends, Thomas gains confidence, stands up to his bullies and uncovers an illegal logging operation that threatens the town.

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