

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

THIS MONTH'S MOST ANTICIPATED BOOK RELEASES



CHARLOTTE GRIMSHAW



THE BLACK MONK

The Black Monk
Charlotte Grimshaw
Penguin | \$38.00

A woman haunted by family denial, secrets and a shadowy figure . . .

While her brother Cedric spirals into addiction, Alice Lidell finds herself confronted not only by his decline, but by memories of the past. From their chaotic Auckland childhood to her present day life, Alice is haunted by a mysterious figure she calls the Black Monk. As Alice tries to hold her family together, the Black Monk appears in various guises: a stranger met in a cemetery, a face on television, a character surfacing in her own writing. Part psychological thriller, part family saga, this is a daring novel that examines the themes of the moment: shame, addiction, truth and the stories we tell to survive.

BOOK OF THE MONTH



“This is no conventional plot-driven novel... more like a spiral running forward and back as Alice visits and revisits images and events from the past to try to make sense of them and of herself.”

— Nicola
The Next Chapter, Wanaka

FICTION

Brawler

Lauren Groff

Hutchinson Heinemann | \$38.00

Across nine stories spanning the 1950s to today, characters confront pivotal moral crossroads: a young woman caring for her disabled sibling, a volatile teenage swimmer, a grieving mother, and an heir burdened by legacy. As love collides with fear and instinct with reason, each must choose who they will become.

The Book of Guilt

Catherine Chidgey

THWUP | \$28.00

In a warped 1979 England, thirteen-year-old triplets in a government-run home take daily medicine against a mysterious illness, dreaming of escape to the mythical “Big House.” When their fate collides with a secluded girl kept hidden in Exeter, buried truths emerge, exposing a chilling system that decides which children deserve to survive.

Kin

Tayari Jones

Penguin | \$38.00

In Louisiana, best friends Vernice and Annie grow up like sisters but follow starkly different paths—Vernice into Atlanta’s elite Black society, Annie on a perilous search for the mother who abandoned her. When tragedy strikes, their lives collide, testing loyalty, identity, and the bonds that shaped them.

Flesh

David Szalay

Vintage | \$28.00

WINNER OF THE BOOKER PRIZE 2025
Fifteen-year-old István begins a secret affair with a married neighbor in Hungary, setting his life on a reckless course. From the army to London’s elite, ambition and desire propel him toward wealth and status, until the same impulses that elevate him threaten to destroy everything he’s built.

The Truth About Ruby Cooper

Liz Nugent

Penguin | \$38.00

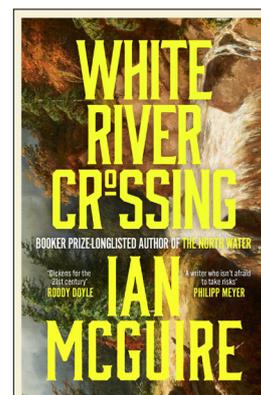
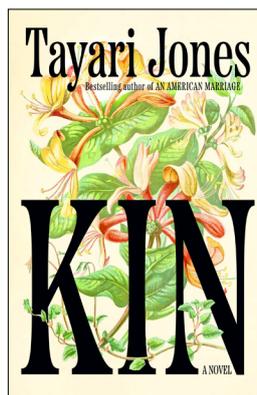
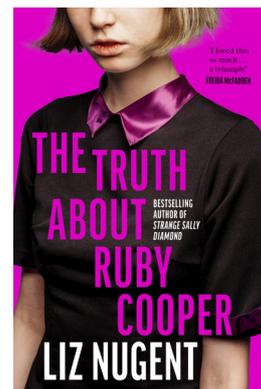
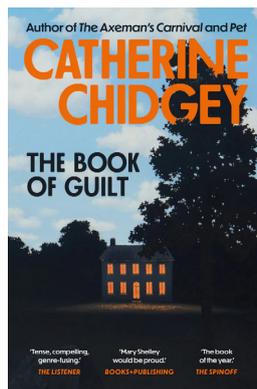
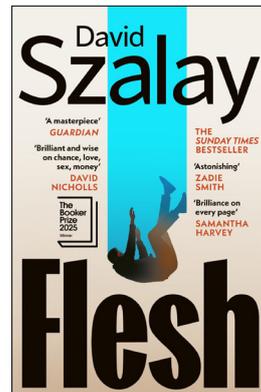
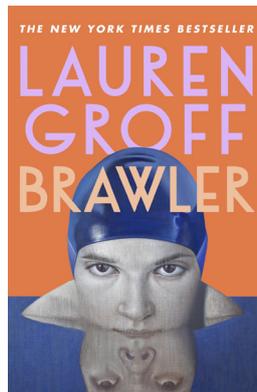
When sixteen-year-old Ruby Cooper’s actions shatter her devout Boston community, her family implodes. Decades later, the fallout still haunts Ruby in Dublin and her sister Erin back home. As buried secrets resurface, the truth behind that fateful incident threatens to destroy them all over again.

White River Crossing

Ian McGuire

Scribner | \$38.99

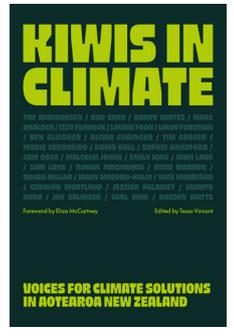
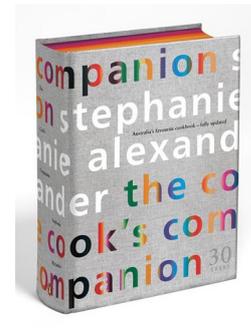
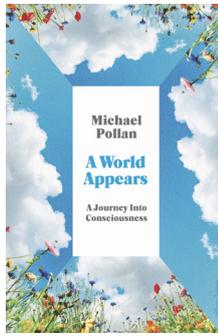
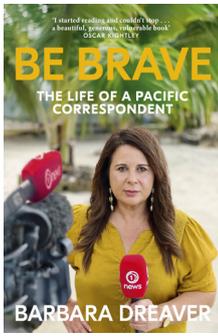
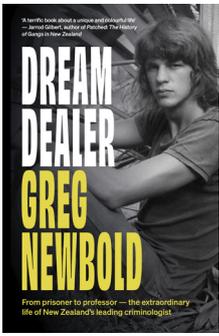
In 1766, a fur trader’s claim of northern gold lures a Hudson’s Bay Company chief into a secret Arctic expedition. As greed, brutality, and cultural tensions fracture the party, a violent act sets off deadly consequences, forcing one man to choose between complicity and conscience in the frozen wilderness.



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NON-FICTION

Dream Dealer Greg Newbold

Allen & Unwin | \$37.99

In 1970s Auckland, Greg Newbold's drug dealing led to a seven-year prison sentence. Behind bars, he produced groundbreaking research on prison life, launching a career as a leading criminologist. This is the unforgettable story of a man who has lived on both sides of the law but who is defined by neither.



Be Brave Barbara Dreaver

Bateman Books | \$45.00

Barbara Dreaver has spent over 30 years reporting from the Pacific, covering coups, resource conflicts, crime, and natural disasters. From struggling reporter to leading correspondent, she takes readers inside the high-stakes frontlines, revealing the personal and professional challenges behind the headlines in a fearless, candid, and unforgettable memoir.



A World Appears Michael Pollan

Allen Lane | \$45.00

Michael Pollan investigates consciousness, exploring how our subjective experience arises and what it means to be self-aware. Blending neuroscience, philosophy, psychedelics, and AI, he journeys from brain labs to plant intelligence and literature, uncovering the hidden depths of perception and the elusive nature of feeling that shapes every human life.

Money, Money, Money Rachel Davies & Angela Meyer

Allen & Unwin | \$37.99

From the creators of Hi Money, this guide empowers women to take control of their finances, break limiting money beliefs, and build wealth. Combining practical tools, psychological insights, and up-to-date guidance, it offers a clear roadmap to financial independence, helping women navigate a system that has long left them behind.



The Cook's Companion 30th Anniversary Edition Stephanie Alexander

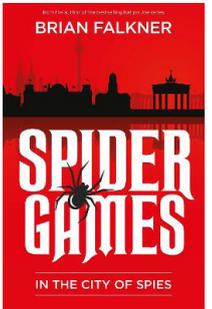
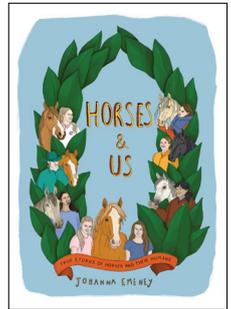
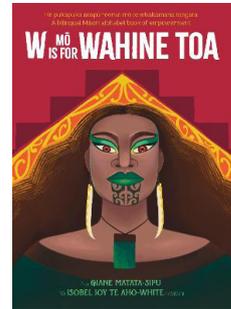
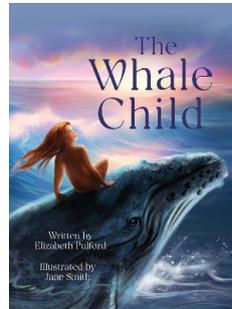
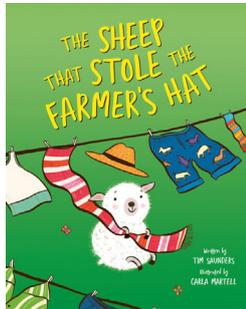
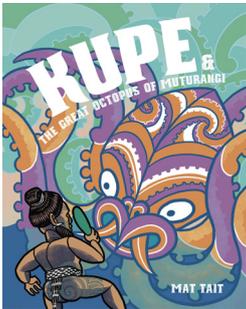
Penguin | \$145.00

The ultimate kitchen guide, with over 1,000 reliable recipes, essential cooking techniques, and expert advice on ingredients and equipment. Updated with 90 new recipes and insights, it's a lifetime resource for mastering cooking, understanding food, and enjoying everyday meals with confidence and creativity.

Kiwis in Climate Tessa Vincent

Bateman Books | \$45.00

Discover bold, practical solutions for New Zealand to tackle climate change. Leading scientists, leaders, and citizens reveal how action can create cleaner energy, jobs, and healthier communities, offering readers hope, agency, and a roadmap to a safer, more sustainable future for Aotearoa and the world.



KIDS' & YOUNG ADULT

Kupe and the Great Octopus of Maturangi Mat Tait

Allen & Unwin | \$29.99

Kupe chases a giant wheke across the Pacific to save Hawaiiki's people from hunger. Guided by his wife's sighting of a long white cloud, he discovers Aotearoa and faces the wheke in an epic battle.



The Sheep That Stole the Farmer's Hat Tim Saunders & Carla Martell

Allen & Unwin | \$19.99

All the farmer's clothes have disappeared! The farm animals get creative, wearing them in hilarious ways. Filled with bouncy rhyme and playful illustrations, this silly, read-aloud story celebrates fun, mischief, and life on the farm.



The Whale Child Elizabeth Pulford & Jane Smith

Bateman Books | \$23.99

During a storm, a baby girl survives a shipwreck and is raised by whales. Growing strong and learning their ways, she ventures too far, changing her life forever. An enchanting story of courage, belonging, and the ocean's pull.



W Is For Wahine Toa Qiane Matata-Sipu & Isobel Joy Te Aho-White

Puffin | \$21.00

This isn't a typical alphabet book—each letter in te reo Māori sparks empowerment and transformation. With stunning imagery celebrating the female spirit, W is for Wahine Toa invites readers of all ages to feel, connect, and unlock their inner strength.



Horses & Us Johanna Emeny

Massey University Press | \$37.00

Horses & Us shares 23 true stories from across New Zealand, celebrating the deep bond between humans and horses. With poems, artwork, and illustrations, this heartwarming collection shows the extraordinary things people and horses achieve together.



Spider Games: In the City of Spies Brian Falkner

Bateman Books | \$27.99

Nervous and awkward Nick is thrust into a deadly spy game when his grandfather disappears in Berlin. With only Rejhana for help, he must navigate secrets, danger, and a city of spies—where his differences may be the key to survival.

