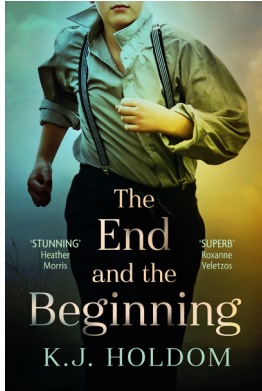


# The April Highlights



## The End and the Beginning K. J. Holdom

Simon & Schuster | \$39.99

*A stunning tour de force of a novel based on the true story of a fourteen-year-old boy's harrowing experience fleeing a Hitler youth camp in the last days of the Second World War.*

At the start of the war, Max Bernot lives with his sister and parents in Lauterbach, Saarland, a narrow strip of territory between the French and German defence lines. His parents, Anton and Marguerite, do their best to shield Max and his sister, Anna, from Nazi violence, but in late 1944, their beloved godfather is executed in their garden by the SS. Max is shipped off to a Hitler Youth Camp in Bavaria but when he is called to fight for the Volkssturm. Instead, he flees. His mission: to return home and tell his mother the truth about his godfather's murder.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



Unbeknownst to Max, his mother is trapped in the German interior, coerced into working for a fanatical Nazi officer. Desperate to escape and reunite her family, Marguerite must first protect Anna from the sinister attentions of their captor, who could hold information on Max's whereabouts, even as Allied planes circle closer.

Deftly interweaving the wartime stories of Max and Marguerite, *The End and the Beginning* maps the loss of innocence for a generation of children raised in the shadow of the Reich and follows the fate of one family, neither wholly French nor entirely German, who find themselves on the wrong side whichever way they turn.

## FICTION

### The Other Catherine Lauren Keenan

Penguin | \$38.00

Two women, centuries apart, face the tides of colonial change. In 1793, Catherine endures a brutal convict voyage to New South Wales, dreaming of freedom. A century later in Aotearoa, Māori matriarch Keita confronts the upheaval of empire while uncovering her own story of survival, whakapapa and resilience.



### Banjara Shana Chandra

Moa Press | \$37.99

In 1888, Avani is deceived into indentured labour on Fiji's sugar plantations, forging fragile bonds with women on the journey into colonial hardship. Generations later, her great-granddaughter Meera searches for the truth of her ancestors' displacement, uncovering a legacy of resilience, identity and memory across India, the Pacific and Aotearoa.



### Remarkably Bright Creatures Shelby Van Pelt

Bloomsbury | \$25.00

After her son vanished decades earlier, Tova works the night shift at an aquarium to keep grief at bay. There she forms an unlikely bond with Marcellus, a perceptive giant octopus. As their friendship grows, he begins piecing together the truth behind her son's disappearance. A warm, hopeful story about loss, connection and second chances.



### Seascraper Benjamin Wood

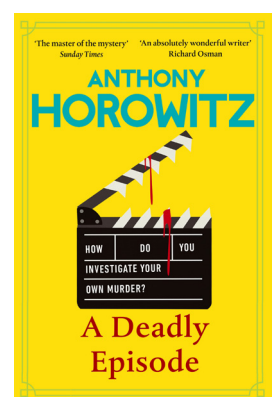
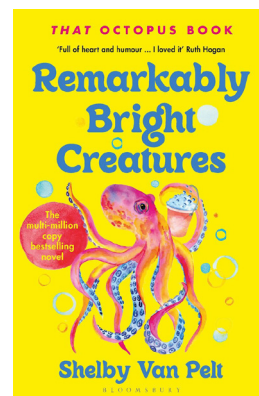
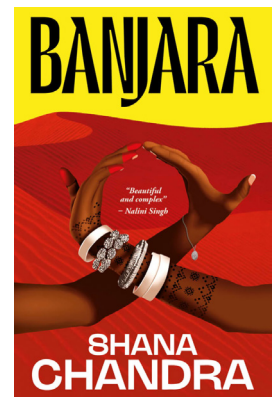
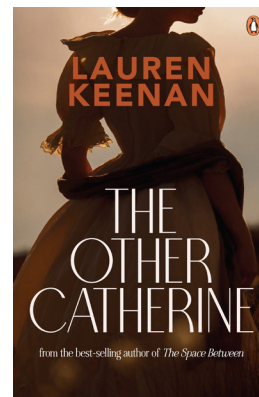
Penguin | \$28.00

In a quiet coastal town, Thomas spends his days shrimping with horse and cart, bound by family duty and small-town expectations while secretly dreaming of becoming a folk musician. When a glamorous American arrives promising opportunity, Thomas glimpses a different future — but must decide how far he'll risk everything to pursue it.

### A Deadly Episode Anthony Horowitz

Century | \$38.00

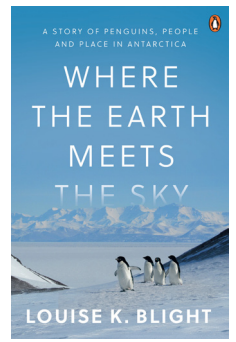
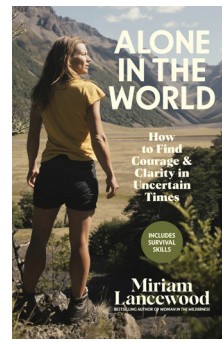
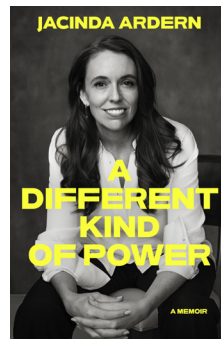
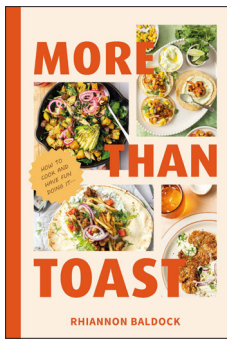
On a chaotic film set in Hastings, Hawthorne finds a tense cast and crew — until the actor playing him is stabbed. With no one else to solve it, Hawthorne must investigate his own attempted murder, navigating secrets, rivalries, and danger in this twisty, high-stakes thriller.



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## NON-FICTION

### More Than Toast Rhiannon Baldock

Bateman Books | \$45.00

Feeling stuck in a cooking rut or surviving on takeout? *More Than Toast* is your no-nonsense guide to easy, impressive meals. From simple eggs and tray bakes to show-stopping Chilli Prawn Tostadas, Rhiannon Baldock's practical tips and hacks help you level up in the kitchen without the stress.



### Night, Ma Elizabeth Knox

THWUP | \$40.00

Over three and a half years, Elizabeth Knox faced grief, illness, and family crises. *Night, Ma* is a tender, deeply personal exploration of love, loss, and resilience—the daily, demanding work of care and connection. With her signature insight, Knox invites readers into her world with honesty and grace.



### Alone in the World Miriam Lancewood

Allen & Unwin | \$37.99

Adventurer Miriam Lancewood shares fearless, deeply personal stories from her travels across New Zealand, the Himalayas, and beyond. *Alone in the World* blends thrilling expeditions with practical advice, showing how to confront fear, embrace independence, and live resourcefully. A guide for anyone seeking courage, resilience, and self-reliance in an unpredictable world.



### A Year at Awakino Station Jaz Mathisen

Allen & Unwin | \$45.00

Set on a breathtaking North Otago farm, *A Year at Awakino Station* blends family-friendly recipes with life on a working station. Follow Jaz Mathisen and her family through the seasons, from homemade preserves to hearty roasts, as they share sustainable farming insights and the warmth of the historic Kurow homestead.



### A Different Kind of Power Jacinda Ardern

Penguin | \$40.00

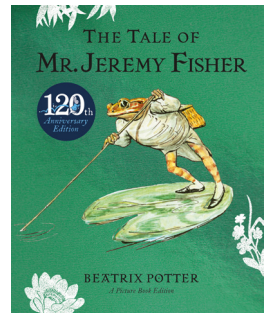
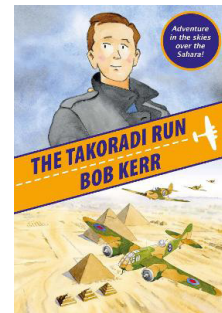
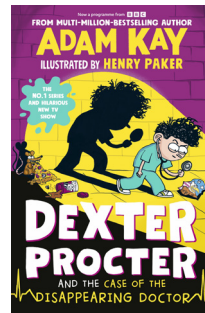
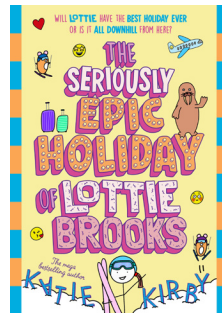
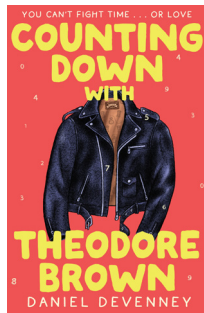
From New Zealand's youngest female Prime Minister to a global icon, Jacinda Ardern shares her journey of empathetic leadership. Facing crises from the Christchurch attacks to a pandemic, she led with compassion, courage, and conviction. *A Different Kind of Power* is a personal, inspiring story of resilience, politics, and redefining leadership.



### Where the Earth Meets the Sky Louise K Blight

Penguin | \$40.00

In Antarctica's extreme isolation, conservation scientist Louise K. Blight studies Adélie penguins amid the world's largest iceberg. *Where the Earth Meets the Sky* blends natural history, polar science, and travelogue, exploring climate impact, human resilience, and the healing power of nature in one of the planet's most unforgiving landscapes.



## KIDS' & YOUNG ADULT

### The Raven's Eye Rebellion Claire Mabey

Allen & Unwin | \$24.99

Getwin, Lea, and Buckle, aided by Sharp the raven, uncover the trickster Book of Blacke and embark on a daring quest to free the oppressed Scribes. In the magical city of Wyle, they face secrets, creatures, and adventure at every turn in this thrilling, action-packed middle-grade fantasy. Sequel to *The Raven's Eye Runaways*.



### The Seriously Epic Holiday of Lottie Brooks Katie Kirby

Puffin | \$21.00

Lottie Brooks is off on a once-in-a-lifetime skiing holiday—but she's never skied before! From hilarious mishaps on the slopes to trying fondue for the first time. Full of laughter, friendship, and unexpected adventures—will this be the best holiday ever, or all downhill?

### The Takoradi Run Bob Kerr

Bateman Books | \$24.99

During the Great Depression, a young office boy dreams of something bigger. When he joins the Air Force in 1940, he soon finds himself flying dangerous missions across the Sahara on the legendary Takoradi Run. Based on true events, this illustrated adventure blends wartime history, daring flights and high-stakes intrigue.



### Counting Down with Theodore Brown Daniel Devenney

Allen & Unwin | \$24.99

Theo sees a countdown of days he'll spend with everyone he meets, keeping him distant since his father's death. But when fearless Lil Sanchez bursts into his summer, he must decide if love is worth the heartbreak. A touching, twist-filled coming-of-age story about time, connection, and courage.



### Dexter Procter and the Case of the Disappearing Doctor Adam Kay

Puffin | \$28.00

Dexter Procter, the world's youngest doctor, returns with a chaotic new medical mystery. When his boss disappears and strange events rock the hospital, Dexter and his friends uncover a wild plot involving kidnappings, earthquakes and a demolition ball.

### The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher Beatrix Potter

Warne | \$21.00

Celebrate 120 years of a beloved classic with this beautiful picture book edition. Follow Mr Jeremy Fisher, a frog who sets off to catch minnows for dinner, only to find his fishing trip full of unexpected mishaps. Featuring Beatrix Potter's original artwork, this timeless tale is perfect for sharing together.