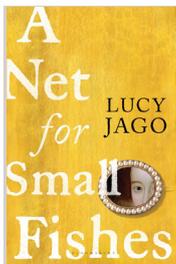


# BOOKSELLERS' CHOICE YOUR MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



The best books for FEBRUARY as chosen by Australia's leading booksellers

## ADULT FICTION



**A Net for Small Fishes**  
Lucy Jago  
BLOOMSBURY  
TPB \$29.99

This gripping novel is based on a true story of a seventeenth-century scandal in the court of

James I. Two very different women attempt to find favour and make their way through a political viper's nest of intrigue and the machinations of a court whose foreign king is a stranger to his own subjects; where ancient families fight for power, and where the sovereign's favourite may rise and rise - so long as he remains in favour.

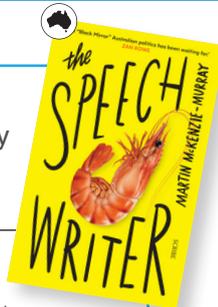


**O**  
Steven Carroll  
4TH ESTATE  
TPB \$32.99

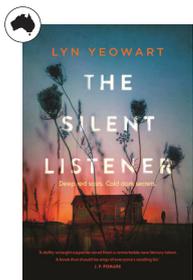
Shortly after World War Two, Dominique writes the *Story of O*, about surrender, submission and shame. From the acclaimed and multi-award-winning Steven Carroll comes *O*, a reimagining of what might have been, the story behind the world's most famous erotic novel that took on a life of its own and mirrored its times in a way the author never dreamt of.

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**The Speechwriter**  
Martin McKenzie-Murray  
SCRIBE PUBLICATIONS  
PB \$29.99



Toby Beaverbrook is a political animal. Born to the soapbox, he rises through the ranks to the Prime Minister's Office, scandal littered in his wake. But things have not quite turned out, and Toby is writing his memoir from the Sunshine Correctional facility, with regular interjections from his murderous cell mate, Gary. Irreverent, crude, and laugh-out-loud funny, *The Speechwriter* reads like *The Thick of It* as imagined by *Black Mirror*. Brilliant Australian political satire.



**The Silent Listener**  
Lyn Yeowart  
VIKING  
TPB \$32.99

This beautifully written and suspenseful debut novel follows Joy Henderson's life of dark family secrets,

dysfunctional and disturbing relationships and Senior Constable Alex Shepherdin as he investigates the murder of Joy's father in an isolated community through the 1940s, 1960s and 1980s. *The Silent Listener* is an unforgettable literary suspense novel set in the dark, gothic heart of rural Australia.



**The Price of Two Sparrows**  
Christy Collins  
AFFIRM PRESS  
TPB \$29.99

When ornithologist Heico Brandsma tells a journalist that a proposed

mosque in his beachside suburb will disrupt the migratory pattern of a bird he is studying, he becomes the focal point of community disagreement about the mosque. Different perspectives flesh out the themes of migration and intolerance as Heico's objection legitimises the hatred many in the community have toward Muslims. A provocative, multi-faceted story of the damage prejudice inflicts on people and communities.

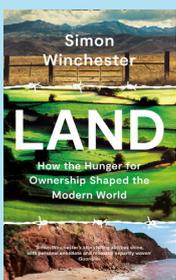


**Shiver**  
Allie Reynolds  
HACHETTE AUSTRALIA  
TPB \$32.99

A group of professional snowboarders reunite ten years after a tragedy that

saw them drift apart. Our narrator, Milla, arrives at Le Rocher to find the remote ski resort is deserted, and the realisation dawns that none of the group know who has invited them all to be together. Ten years before, when they were at the peak of their careers, the group's enigmatic friend Saskia disappeared from the same place. As the snow closes in, a claustrophobic cat-and-mouse thriller unfolds.

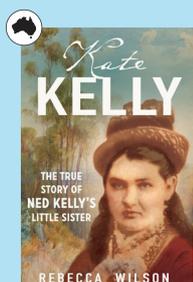
## NON FICTION



**Land**  
Simon Winchester  
WILLIAM COLLINS  
TPB \$34.99

*Land* is a human history of land around the world: who mapped it, owned it, stole it, cared for it, fought for it and

gave it back. Simon Winchester explores the stewardship of land, the ways it is delineated and changes hands, the great disputes, and the questions of restoration - particularly in the light of climate change and colonialist reparation. A global study, this is an exquisite exploration of what the ownership of land might really mean for the people who live on it.



**Kate Kelly**  
Rebecca Wilson  
ALLEN & UNWIN  
TPB \$32.99

Kate Kelly has always been overshadowed by her famous brother Ned, but the talented young woman was a popular

public figure in her own right. She acted as a messenger and decoy for the Kelly Gang, and was present at the gruesome Glenrowan siege. After Ned's execution, Kate helped to popularise the Ned Kelly story. She was mysteriously found dead in a lagoon outside the NSW town of Forbes in 1898 - was it suicide, accident or murder?

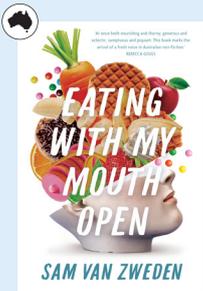


**With My Little Eye**  
Sandra Hogan  
ALLEN & UNWIN  
TPB \$29.99

The very funny true story of three children recruited by their parents to work for ASIO in the 1950s. Growing up, the three

Doherty children were trained by their parents to memorise car number plates, to spot unusual behaviour on the street and, most important of all, to avoid drawing attention to themselves. Sworn to secrecy by their parents, the children became unwitting foot soldiers in Australia's battle against Soviet infiltration in the Cold War.

## NON FICTION



**Eating with My Mouth Open**  
Sam van Zweden

NEWSOUTH  
TPB \$29.99

*Eating with My Mouth Open* is food writing like you've never seen

before: honest, bold, and exceptionally tasty. Celebrating food and all the bodies it nurtures, *Eating with My Mouth Open* considers the true meaning of nourishment within the broken food system we live in. Not holding back from difficult conversations about mental illness, weight, and wellbeing, Sam van Zweden advocates for body politics that are empowering, productive, and meaningful.



**Truth-Telling: History, Sovereignty and the Uluru Statement**  
Henry Reynolds

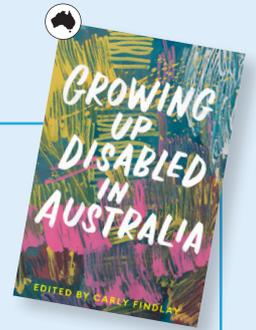
NEWSOUTH  
PB \$34.99

In *Truth-Telling*, influential historian Henry Reynolds pulls the rug from legal and historical assumptions in a book that is about the present as much as the past. His work shows exactly why our national war memorial must acknowledge the frontier wars, why we must change the date of our national day, and why treaties are important. Most of all, it makes urgently clear that the Uluru Statement from the Heart is no rhetorical flourish but carries the weight of history and law and gives us a map

**Growing Up Disabled in Australia**  
Carly Findlay (ed)

BLACK INC.  
PB \$29.99

One in five Australians has a disability. Yet disabled people are still underrepresented in the media and in literature. In *Growing Up Disabled in Australia* – compiled by writer and activist Carly Findlay OAM – more than forty writers with a disability or chronic illness share their stories. The result is illuminating. With contributors including senator Jordon Steele-John, paralympian Isis Holt, Dion Beasley, Astrid Edwards, Jessica Walton and many others, this is a powerful collection of voices not heard often enough.



## CHILDREN'S & YA BOOKS



**Listen, Layla**  
Yasmin Abdel-Magied

PENGUIN  
PB \$16.99

Layla has ended the school year on a high and can't wait to spend the holidays hanging out with her

friends. But Layla's plans are interrupted when her grandmother in Sudan falls ill and the family rush to be with her. The last time Layla went to Sudan she was only a young child. Now she feels torn between her Sudanese and Australian identities. As political tensions in Sudan erupt, so too do tensions between Layla and her family. Exploring themes of race, politics and identity, *An Own Voices* novel full of passion and humour. 12+



**The Boy from the Mish**  
Gary Lonesborough

A&U CHILDREN'S  
PB \$19.99

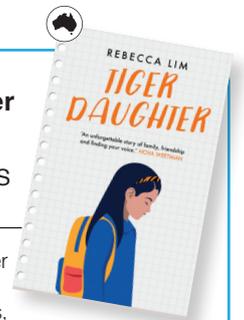
Life's going all right for Jackson on the Mish. It's almost Christmas, school's

out, and he's hanging with his mates, teaching the visiting tourists, avoiding the racist boys in town. Then Jackson's Aunty and annoying little cousins visit from the city – bringing with them a mysterious boy with a troubled past. A funny and heart-warming queer Indigenous YA novel, set in a rural Australian community, about seventeen-year-old Jackson finding the courage to explore who he is, even if it scares him. 14+

**Tiger Daughter**  
Rebecca Lim

A&U CHILDREN'S  
PB \$16.99

Wen Zhou, daughter and only child of Chinese immigrants, is determined to create a future for herself that is more satisfying than the life her parents expect her to lead. Wen and her friend, Henry Xiao both dream of escape from their unhappy circumstances, and form a plan to sit an entrance exam to a selective high school far from home. But when tragedy strikes, it will take all of Wen's resilience and resourcefulness to get herself and Henry through the storm that follows. Equal parts heartbreaking and hopeful, this is an authentic Own Voices novel about growing up Asian in Australia. 11+



**Beneath the Trees**  
Cristy Burke

FREMANTLE PRESS  
PB \$14.99

Cam and Sophie are out in the rainforest hoping to see a platypus in the wild, but with the rain



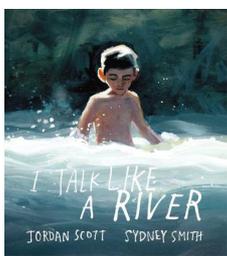
tipping down and the river turning wild they can't see a thing. When they do finally come across a platypus they can see that it needs help! But when their rescue attempt goes horribly wrong, it's not just the platypus that needs saving. A great wilderness adventure story for younger readers.

**I Talk Like a River**  
Jordan Scott & Sydney Smith (illus)

WALKER BOOKS  
HB \$27.99

After a day of being unable to speak,

and of being stared at, a boy and his father go to the river for some quiet time. "It's just a bad speech day," says Dad. When his father points to the river bubbling and churning, the boy finds a way to think about how he speaks. Even the river stutters. Like him. A moving picture book that beautifully captures what it feels like to be different and how to make peace with it.



**Plantastic! A to Z of Australian Plants**  
Catherine Clowes & Rachel Gyan

CSIRO PUBLISHING  
HB \$29.99

*Plantastic!* looks at 26 of Australia's most unique and incredible native plants. Did you know that there are plants that eat insects or move when you touch them? Discover and identify native plants found in your local park, bushland, or your own backyard. The perfect balance of fun facts, activities, adventurous ideas and gorgeous illustrations.