

Title:
The Talented Mrs Greenway

Author:
Tea Cooper

Published:
2023

Adult Fiction

'Wife, mother, architect, forger...'

When Mary Greenway, freshly arrived from the old country, steps into the maelstrom of Sydney Town with three children at her skirts, she has high hopes of a new beginning, despite having little money and a husband in irons. After all, the sudden death of her sadistic first husband has meant freedom from her gilded cage and Francis Greenway is an architect of some promise, under the protection of Admiral Phillip himself.



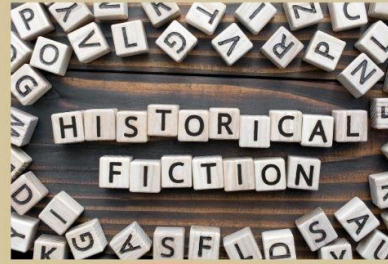
Title:
The Red Bird Sings

Author:
Aoife Fitzpatrick

Published:
2023

Adult Fiction

West Virginia, 1897. After the sudden death of young Zona Shue only a few months after her impromptu wedding, her mother Mary Jane has a vision - she was killed. And by none other than her new husband, Trout, the handsome blacksmith beloved in their small Southern town. Mary Jane, known for casting off her corsets, following famous spiritualists and for criticising Zona when she was alive, is shattered by her conviction. Yet no-one believes her. Her only ally is the eccentric Lucy Frye - an unmarried woman who always suspected Trout's power over her friend. As the trial raises to fever pitch and the men of Greenbrier County stand aligned against them, Mary Jane and Lucy must decide whether to play with fire and reveal Zona's greatest secret.



2024 Reading List

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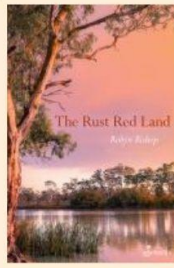
Title:
Black Silk and Sympathy

Author:
Deborah Challinor

Published:
2024

Adult Fiction

A dazzling new series from bestselling historical fiction author Deborah Challinor, exploring the fascinating world of Victorian funeral customs and featuring Sydney's first female undertaker.



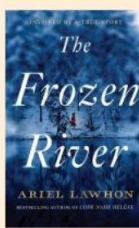
Title:
The Rust Red Land

Author:
Robyn Bishop

Published:
2023

Adult Fiction

"You ask too many questions, Matilda. It's not becoming in a girl". But Matilda is full of questions. It's the late 1800s in rural New South Wales and Matilda, as the oldest daughter, is expected to cook, clean and help Mama with her brothers and sisters. But her inquiring mind will not be stilled nor her rebellious spirit tamed. When frustration overcomes her, she finds escape in the land she loves and in her imagination, nourished by books.



Title:
The Frozen River

Author:
Ariel Lawhon

Published:
2023

Adult Fiction

Maine, 1789: When a man is found entombed in the frozen Kennebec River, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As the local midwife and healer, Martha is good at keeping secrets. Her diary is a record of every birth, death and debacle that unfolds in the town of Hallowell. In that diary she has also documented the details of an alleged rape committed by one of the town's most esteemed gentlemen - the same man who has now been found dead in the ice. While certain townspeople are eager to put both matters to rest, Martha suspects that the crimes are linked, and that there is more to both cases than meets the eye.



Title:
The Queen's Apprenticeship

Author:
Tracy Ryan

Published:
2023

Adult Fiction

Two women from different worlds in Renaissance France cross paths in a way that changes both their lives. One is Marguerite de Navarre, a King's sister. The other is a cast out, itinerant child who longs to be a printer like her late father. Jehane goes dressed as a male by the name of Josse, at first for safety's sake and then by choice, fending off the risks of being alone, unprotected and born female, but trying to live in freedom.



Title:
Rebellion

Author:
Simon Scarrow

Published:
2023

Adult Fiction

AD 60. Britannia is in turmoil. The rebel leader Boudica has tasted victory, against a force of tough veterans in Camulodunum. Alerted to the rapidly spreading uprising, Governor Suetonius leads his army towards endangered Londinium with a mounted escort, led by Prefect Cato. Soon it's terrifyingly clear that Britannia is slipping into chaos and panic, with ever more tribal warriors swelling Boudica's ranks. And Cato and Suetonius are grimly aware that little preparation has been made to withstand a full-scale rebellion.



Title:
The Housekeepers

Author:
Alex Kay

Published:
2023

Adult Fiction

Upstairs, madam is planning the party of the season. Downstairs, the servants are plotting the heist of the century. When Mrs King, housekeeper to the most illustrious home in Mayfair, is suddenly dismissed after years of loyal service, she knows just who to recruit to help her take revenge. A black-market queen out to settle her scores. An actress desperate for a magnificent part. A seamstress dreaming of a better life and Mrs King's predecessor, who has been keeping the dark secrets of Park Lane far too long.



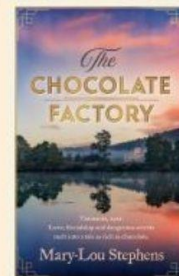
Title:
Sharpe's Command

Author:
Bernard Cornwell

Published:
2023

Adult Fiction

If any man can do the impossible it's Richard Sharpe ... and the impossible is exactly what the formidable Captain Sharpe is asked to do when he's sent on an undercover mission to a small village in the Spanish countryside, far behind enemy lines. For the quiet, remote village, sitting high above the Almaraz bridge, is about to become the centre of a battle for the future of Europe.



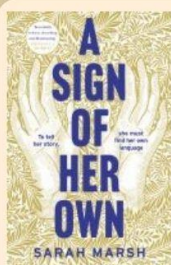
Title:
The Chocolate Factory

Author:
Mary-Lou Stephens

Published:
2024

Adult Fiction

Tasmania 1921: Love, friendship and dangerous secrets in the early years of Cadbury's Tasmanian factory. A tangled web of ambition and intrigue melts into a tale as delicious and rich as chocolate.



Title:
A Sign of Her Own

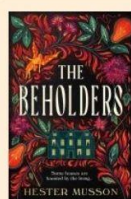
Author:
Sarah Marsh

Published:
2024

Adult Fiction

To tell her story, she must find her own language.....

An empowering story of a young woman's journey to accepting her deaf identity, exploring the hidden history of the deaf community in the invention of the telephone.



Title:
The Beholders

Author:
Hester Musson

Published:
2024

Adult Fiction

Harriet is a young maid newly employed at Finton Hall, entranced by the grand country hall and her glamorous mistress Clara Gethin, whose unearthly singing voice flows through the house. The master of the house is a much-lauded politician, but he is strangely absent. And some of their beautiful belongings seem to tell terrible stories. Unable to ignore her growing unease, Harriet sets out to discover their secrets. When she uncovers a shocking truth, a chain of events is set in motion that could cost Harriet everything, even her freedom...



Title:
The Women

Author:
Kristin Hannah

Published:
2024

Adult Fiction

"Women can be heroes, too". When twenty-year-old nursing student, Frances "Frankie" McGrath, hears these unexpected words, it is a revelation. Raised on California's idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different path for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurses Corps and follows his path.



Title:
The Sea Captain's Wife

Author:
Jackie French

Published:
2024

Adult Fiction

From bestselling author Jackie French comes a compelling story of murder, mystery, and mutiny on the high seas - and a love so intense it can overcome two different cultures.