

**Title:** Dirrayawadha: Rise Up  
**Author:** Anita Heiss  
**Published:** 2024

Adult Fiction  
 ebook  
 eAudio

Miinaa was a young girl when the white ghosts first arrived. She remembers the day they raised a piece of cloth and renamed her homeland 'Bathurst'. Now she lives at Cloverdale and works for a white family. The Nugents are kind, but Miinaa misses her miyagan. Her brother, Windradnye, is a Wiradyuri leader, and visits when he can, bringing news of unrest across their ngurambang. Miinaa hopes the violence will not come to Cloverdale. When Irish convict Daniel O'Dwyer arrives at the settlement, Miinaa's life is transformed again. The pair are magnetically drawn to each other and begin meeting at the bila in secret. Dan understands how it feels to be displaced, but they still have a lot to learn about each other. Can their love survive their differences and the turmoil that threatens to destroy everything around them?



**Title:** In the Margins  
**Author:** Gale Holmes  
**Published:** 2023

Adult Fiction  
 ebook

England, 1647. As civil war gives way to an uneasy peace and Puritanism becomes the letter of the law, Frances Wolfreston, a rector's wife, is charged with enforcing religious compliance by informing on her parishioners. This awful task triggers memories of her mother, Alice, who inspired Frances' love of books and secretly practised Catholicism at great risk. Conflicted, she doesn't report a reclusive and mysterious midwife to delay her going to gaol. Frances takes increasingly bold steps to help the women and children of the parish and attracts the ire of a patron of the church who questions why Frances collects books. When her mother is gaoled for religious crimes, secrets begin to surface, she is faced with an impossible choice: comply with the strict new laws, or risk everything to free her mother.

# Fiction Inspired by Real Life

2025

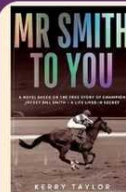
**Reserve these titles and search for more using our library catalogue**  
[library.bathurst.nsw.gov.au](http://library.bathurst.nsw.gov.au)



**Title:** The Last Witch of Scotland  
**Author:** Philip Paris  
**Published:** 2024

Adult Fiction

Scottish Highlands, 1727. In the aftermath of a tragic fire that kills her father, Aila and her mother move to the remote parish of Loth, north-west of Inverness. Blending in does not come easily to the women: Aila was badly burned in the fire and left with visible injuries, while her mother struggles to maintain her grip on reality. When a temporary minister is appointed in the area, rather than welcome the two women, he develops a strange curiosity for them that sets them even further apart from the community. The Last Witch of Scotland is a story of love, loyalty and sacrifice, inspired by the true story of the last person to be executed for witchcraft in Britain.



**Title:** Mr Smith to You  
**Author:** Kerry Taylor  
**Published:** 2023

Adult Fiction  
 ebook  
 eAudio

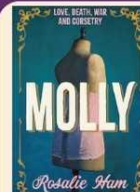
A novel based on the true story of Australian jockey Bill Smith - a life lived in secret. For most of his 76 years, Bill Smith has preferred solitude over socialising, horses over people, and always made sure not to let anyone get too close. As a jockey, he was known for always turning up already fully kitted out in his silks. But now, in his advancing years, a fall lands him in full-time care and it becomes impossible to maintain his privacy. Nurse Maureen resents having to look after 'the gerics', especially grumpy old buggers like Mr Smith, but when she discovers Bill's secret an unlikely alliance is formed. Bill was assigned female at birth, a fact that shaped his life but never limited his ambition.



**Title:** The Librarian of Auschwitz  
**Author - Illustrator:** Antonio Iturbe, Loreto Aroca  
**Published:** 2023 / 2020

Graphic Novel  
 Adult Large Print Fiction

Fourteen-year-old Dita is one of the many imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. Dita is adjusting to the constant terror that is life in the camp. When Jewish leader Freddy Hirsch asks Dita to take charge of the eight precious books the prisoners have managed to smuggle in, she agrees. And so Dita becomes the secret librarian of Auschwitz, responsible for the safekeeping of the small collection, as well as the 'living books' - prisoners of Auschwitz who know certain books so well, can be 'borrowed' to educate the children in the camp. But books are extremely dangerous. And nowhere are they more dangerous than in Block 31, the children's block, where the slightest transgression can result in execution...



**Title:** Molly  
**Author:** Rosalie Ham  
**Published:** 2024

Adult Fiction  
 ebook  
 eAudio

It's 1914 and Molly Dunning wants to see change: at home, at work and in underwear. Her burgeoning corsetry business is starting to take off, thanks to some high-profile supporters. She's marching with Melbourne's suffragists for better conditions for women everywhere. And her family - her eccentric, confounding, adored father and aunt - are turning their minds to country retirement. But as the clouds of war gather and an ominous figure starts skulking in the shadows of her life, Molly's dreams begin to falter. Then, when true love drops out of the sky and into her arms, her hopes for her life and the world are entirely upended.



**Title:** Burma Sahib  
**Author:** Paul Theroux  
**Published:** 2024

Adult Fiction  
 ebook  
 eAudio

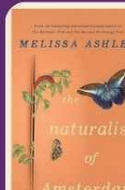
Before George Orwell was Orwell - he was Eric Blair, an unlikely policeman in Burma. 19 years old, unusually tall, highly intelligent, a diffident loner fresh from Eton, Blair stood out amongst his fellow trainees in 1920s Mandalay. It was here, over five years in the narrow colonial world of the Raj - a decaying system steeped in overt racism and petty class-conflict - that Eric Blair became the George Orwell we know - an anti-imperialist, a socialist and a writer of rare commitment. The inner journey he made in these years is remarkable, but in the absence of letters or diaries from the period, this richly complex transformation can only be told in fiction, as it is here by Paul Theroux, in one of his most striking and accomplished novels.



**Title:** We Are Not Free  
**Author:** Traci Chee  
**Published:** 2022

Young Adult

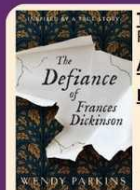
A collective account of a tight-knit group of young Nisei, second-generation Japanese American citizens, whose lives are irrevocably changed by the mass U.S. incarcerations of World War II. Fourteen teens who have grown up together in Japantown, San Francisco. These teens form a community and a family, as interconnected as they are conflicted. Their lives are turned upside down when over 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry are removed from their homes and forced into desolate incarceration camps.



**Title:** The Naturalist of Amsterdam  
**Author:** Melissa Ashley  
**Published:** 2023

Adult Fiction  
 ebook  
 eAudio

Set in 1700s Amsterdam and the wilds of the South American jungle, it charts the creation of one of the most famous works by a female artist of all time: The Metamorphosis of the Insects of Suriname. For as long as she can remember, Dorothea Graff's life has been lived in service to her mother, Maria: from collecting insects to colouring illustrations for Maria's world-famous publications. While Dorothea longs for a life that is truly her own, she constantly finds herself drawn back into her mother's world - and shadow. When offered a chance of happiness, will Dorothea have the courage to take it, and risk everything her mother built?



**Title:** The Defiance of Frances Dickinson  
**Author:** Wendy Parkins  
**Published:** 2024

Adult Fiction

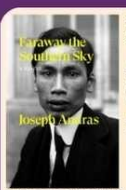
A woman who braved public disgrace to expose a brutal marriage. 1838, England: When eighteen-year-old heiress Frances Dickinson impulsively marries Lieutenant John Gells, she soon discovers there is much about her husband she did not know. A cruel and violent man, John keeps Frances in isolation on his family's estate in Scotland, while spending her fortune and preying upon their minds. Frances yearns to break free from her marriage but the law is not on her side. Only when John's abuse escalates can she set in motion a daring plan to secure her freedom. A story of gaslighting, control and one woman's fight, reveals the truth behind one of the most sensational divorce trials of the 19th century.



**Title:** As Long As the Lemon Trees Grow  
**Author:** Zoulfa Katouh  
**Published:** 2022

Young Adult  
 ebook

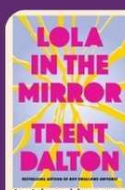
Salama Kassab was a pharmacy student when the cries for freedom broke out in Syria. She still had her parents, her big brother and her home. She was even supposed to be meeting a boy to talk about marriage. Now, Salama volunteers at a hospital in Homs, helping the wounded who flood through the doors. She knows that she should be thinking about leaving, but who will help the people of her beloved country if she doesn't? With her heart so conflicted, her mind has conjured a vision to spur her to action. Khawf haunts her nights with hallucinations of everything she has lost. Then Salama crosses paths with Kenan, the boy she was supposed to meet on that fateful day. Salama must learn to see the events around her for what they truly are not a war, but a revolution and decide how she, too, will cry for Syria's freedom.



**Title:** Faraway the Southern Sky  
**Author:** Joseph Andras, translated by Simon Leser  
**Published:** 2024

Adult Fiction

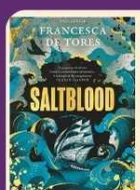
A biographical historical fiction retelling of Ho Chi Minh's immigration and radical life in underground Paris in the 1920s. Ho Chi Minh arrived in Paris as a young man, a refugee from political repression, just as World War I was spurring to a close. When, six years later, he stole out of town on a train bound for the young Soviet Union, he had emerged as the fiery, passionate leader of the Vietnamese independence movement and a founder of the French Communist Party. Joseph Andras recalls Ho Chi Minh's early years and walks Ho's Paris neighborhoods. Searching for traces of the past in the streets of today...



**Title:** Lola in the Mirror  
**Author:** Trent Dalton  
**Published:** 2023

Adult Fiction  
 ebook  
 eAudio

A girl and her mother have been on the run for sixteen years, from police and the monster they left in their kitchen with a knife in his throat. They've found themselves a home inside a van with four flat tyres parked in a scrapyard by the edge of the Brisbane River. The girl has no name because names are dangerous when you're on the run. But the girl has a dream. A vision of a life as an artist of international acclaim. There's only one person who can help make her dreams come true. That person is Lola and she carries all the answers. But to find Lola, the girl with no name must first do one of the hardest things we can ever do. She must look in the mirror.



**Title:** Saltblood  
**Author:** Francesca De Tors  
**Published:** 2024

Adult Fiction  
 ebook

In a rented room outside Plymouth in 1685, a daughter is born as her half-brother is dying. Her mother makes a decision: Mary will become Mark and Ma will continue to collect his inheritance money. Mary's dual existence will take her to a grand house where she'll serve a French mistress; to the navy where she'll learn who to trust and how to navigate by the stars; to the army and the battlegrounds of Flanders, following her one true friend; and finding love among the bloodshed and mud. Drawn back to the water, Mary must reinvent herself yet again. This time Mary will become something more dangerous than a woman. She will become a pirate. The story of Mary Read, one of history's most remarkable figures.