

May Highlights



Bookseller Review



The Book of Guilt Catherine Chidgey

Te Herenga Waka University Press | \$38.00

The latest novel by Catherine Chidgey is a deliciously chilling story set in an alternate England. In this world, WWII ended early in 1943 with the death of Hitler and the subsequent peace allowed the UK to access research carried out in the Nazi death camps.

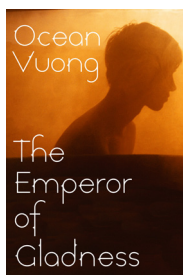
In 1979 three identical teenaged boys are living in a rundown old house, the final subjects of a secretive project that is being closed down, watched over by three Mothers. They receive treatment for a medical condition they don't understand, the symptoms of which keep changing. Kept isolated for all their lives, they are finally being allowed access to the nearby village, the inhabitants of which seem to both fear and hate them.

The England of 1979 is beautifully evoked through an accretion of perfect details. Secrets are gradually revealed, ratcheting up the tension as the truth behind the mysterious project is revealed. The frequent mentions of the children's TV show *Jim'll Fix It* are a subtle hint that the darkest evil can live in plain sight and be ignored by otherwise moral and upright citizens.

Catherine Chidgey is one of New Zealand's very best authors, a wonderfully precise and thoughtful writer, and *The Book of Guilt* is probably her finest work since the marvellous *Remote Sympathy*, which covered some similar themes. A book to savour, this will resonate long after the final page.

– Review by Phil at Timaru Booksellers

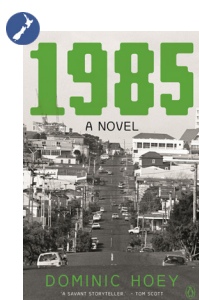
Adult Fiction



The Emperor of Gladness Ocean Vuong

Penguin | \$38.00

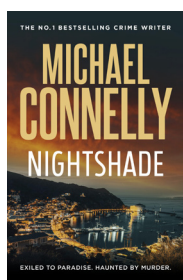
Nineteen-year-old Hai is saved from his suicide attempt by Grazina, an elderly widow succumbing to dementia, who convinces him to take another path. Bereft and out of options, he quickly becomes her caretaker. Over the course of the year, the unlikely pair develops a life-altering bond, one built on empathy, spiritual reckoning, and heartbreak, with the power to alter Hai's relationship to himself, his family, and a community at the brink.



1985 Dominic Hoey

Penguin | \$38.00

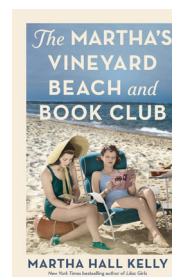
It's 1985 and Obi is on the cusp of teenagehood, after a childhood marked by poverty, dysfunctional family dynamics, (dis)organised crime and street violence. When he and his best mate Al discover a map leading to unknown riches, Obi wonders if this windfall could be the thing that turns his family's fortunes around. Instead, he's thrown into a quest very different from the games he loves.



Nightshade Michael Connelly

Allen & Unwin | \$38.00

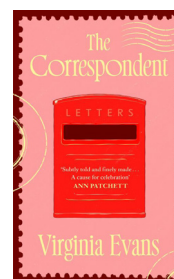
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Detective Stilwell has been 'exiled' to a low-key post, policing rustic Catalina Island, after department politics drove him off a homicide desk on the mainland. But while following up the usual drunk-and-disorderlies and petty thefts that come with his new territory, Detective Stilwell gets a report of a body found wrapped in plastic and weighed down at the bottom of the harbour.



The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club Martha Hall Kelly

Penguin | \$38.00

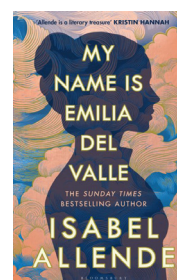
It's World War II, and Smith sisters Briar and Ginny are faced with the impossible task of holding their failing family farm together as the US army arrives on their island. In an attempt for normalcy, the sisters start a book club that quickly grows in numbers and becomes a lifeline for the women who remain on the island. That is, until a German soldier's arrival casts shadows of doubt and danger.



The Correspondent Virginia Evans

Penguin | \$37.00

In her letters to family and friends we come to know the life of Sybil Van Antwerp - stubborn, cantankerous, opinionated, always steadfast in her belief in the power of the written word. But as the clock begins to tick for Sybil, the need for a few postscripts to the life she's led becomes apparent. It's time to face her difficult relationship with her children, take a final chance on love, atone for an old legal case and reckon with a devastating loss.



My Name is Emilia del Valle Isabel Allende

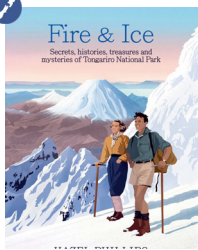
Bloomsbury | \$37.00

Emilia del Valle was always destined for great things. Abandoned at birth by her Chilean aristocrat father, Emilia comes of age in nineteenth-century San Francisco as an independent and fiercely ambitious young woman, decades ahead of her time. She will do whatever it takes to pursue her life's passion for writing, even if it means publishing under a man's name.

Follow BookHub on [Instagram](#) for book news, curated reading lists and giveaways!



Adult Non-fiction

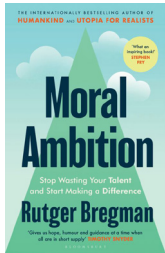


Fire and Ice Hazel Phillips

Massey University Press | \$50.00

What lies off-track in Tongariro National Park? This engrossing book contains stories of ghosts, fires, avalanches, plane wrecks, secret

spots and more from around Ngauruhoe, Tongariro and Ruapehu – a place of wild and chaotic grandeur. With over 200 historic and present-day images and 25 maps, it's a must-have for all who love skiing, climbing and tramping around this mighty mountain.

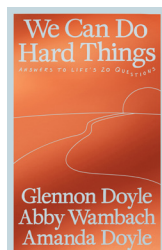


Moral Ambition Rutger Bregman

Bloomsbury | \$39.00

Rutger Bregman shows us that with moral ambition – the will to make the world a wildly better place – it is possible to be both idealistic and successful,

and to change the world along the way. Looking to the great change-makers of history, he uncovers the qualities that made them so persuasive and effective, and shows how we, too, can lend our talents to the biggest challenges of our time, from climate change to gross inequality to the next pandemic.



We Can Do Hard Things

Glennon Doyle, Abby Wambach & Amanda Doyle

Random House | \$40.00

In life, we circle the same 20 questions again and again. Why am I like this?

How do I know what to do? Why can't I be happy? Why am I so angry? How do I let go? Facing these questions is uncomfortable, the answers are complicated, but these authors have learned that life gets easier when we are brave enough to name the hard questions and discover our answers.



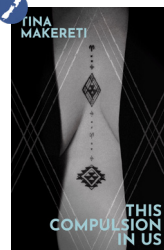
Ngā Kākahu Māori O Mua

Hirini Moko Mead

Huia Publishers | \$65.00

Starting with identifying the range of garments present during the Classical Period of Māori traditional clothing

(1769–1800), their function and the ways they were made, this book then explores how clothing of Māori has changed in style, function and construction. Hirini Moko Mead makes a detailed analysis of the materials used, construction techniques, patterns, garments produced and the ways they have changed over time.

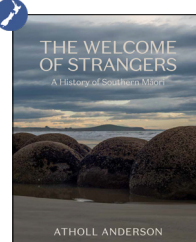


This Compulsion in Us Tina Makereti

Te Herenga Waka University Press | \$40.00

Tina Makereti writes from inside her many intersecting lives as a wahine Māori – teacher, daughter, traveller, parent –

and into a past that is as alive and changeable as the present moment. Included are frank and moving essays about the wāhine who have shown her many ways of being a Māori woman, the pain and dark humour of living with an alcoholic, a blue boob from breast cancer treatment, and the potential of art to return power to survivors of colonialism.



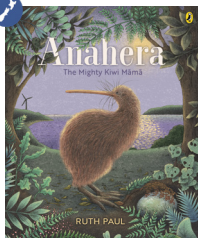
The Welcome of Strangers Atholl Anderson

Bridget Williams Books | \$70.00

The dynamics of an evolving southern world are mapped by distinguished archaeologist

Atholl Anderson in a new edition of his groundbreaking book from 1998, now co-published with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. *The Welcome of Strangers* traces the early migrations of Waitaha and Kāti Māmoe people and the later arrival and settlement of Ngāi Tahu.

Children's Books



Anahera Ruth Paul

Picture Puffin | \$21.00

The inspiring true story of one big, fierce mama kiwi. When she was very young, Anahera was rescued by forestry workers in Taranaki and

brought to the Ōtorohanga Kiwi House in Waikato. Looked after by the staff there, she grew huge and strong and soon became the mama of over sixty chicks! Years later, Anahera is going to be released back into the wild. Can she survive and thrive?

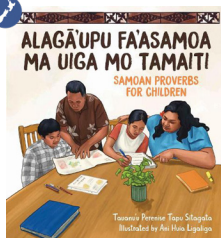


Dreamslinger Graci Kim

Penguin | \$24.00

Fourteen-year-old Aria Loveridge is a Dreamslinger, born with a genetic mutation that transports her to a magical realm while she sleeps. In much

of the world slingers are seen as dangerous, especially after the Great Outburst, caused by the Royal League of Dreamslingers, which killed thousands including Aria's mother. When the League opens their Trials to Dreamslinger teenagers from around the world, Aria signs up to take them down from the inside.



Alagā'upu Fa'asamoa ma Uiga mo Tamaiti: Samoan Proverbs for Children

Tauanu'u Perenise Tapu Sitagata & Ani Huia Ligaliga

Oratia | \$21.00

This lovely picture book presents 30 Samoan proverbs for children in the original language, alongside translations and explanations in English, with themes ranging from family, leadership and education to the environment and spirituality.



The Lost Saint Rachael Crow

Allen & Unwin | \$30.00

When a catastrophic earthquake hits, Ana and the other survivors emerge in a world they don't recognise, stumbling into a 14th century battle. The

students flee and Ana is chased off a cliff by one of the soldiers, Leon, who is badly injured in the fall. Sparks fly as Ana and Leon need to rely on each other to survive the treacherous journey and find the legendary mystic everyone calls 'The Saint' who supposedly has the power to send Ana home.

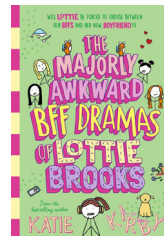


Kimi the Kekenos Big Adventure Shelley Burne-Field

Allen & Unwin | \$20.00

Kimi the kekeno is going on the biggest adventure of his life: the long and scary journey to the magical Stone Circle. Along the way

Kimi and his friends meet a giant squid who needs their help, a wise old stingray and a very hungry hammerhead shark. Does shy and gentle Kimi have what it takes to make the journey? Can the friends still make it to the Stone Circle moon ceremony on time?



The Majorly Awkward BFF Dramas of Lottie Brooks Katie Kirby

Penguin | \$21.00

Lottie Brooks is back and she's as brilliant as ever! At long last Lottie and Daniel

are an official couple and everything seems to be going brilliantly. Meanwhile Pot Noodle, the cockapoo, becomes the newest member of the Brooks family. Lottie soon finds having a new boyfriend and a new dog means she has little time for anyone else, leaving her best friends pretty upset. How is Lottie meant to keep everybody happy?

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