

JULY HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the most anticipated new book releases of the month



The Stars Are a Million Glittering Worlds

Gina Butson

Allen & Unwin | \$38.00

Tragedy shadows Thea wherever she goes. From New Zealand, to Guatemala, to Tasmania where she settles in a new relationship bonded by grief. When yet more tragedy strikes it unearths old grief, guilt and unanswered questions. Against the backdrop of the pandemic, Thea questions the trust she has in her partner and realises that if she wants to know the truth, she will need to come clean about her own past.

Throughout the book, Butson skillfully paints a vivid sense of place, filling the pages with disparate lands and landscapes. Thea's actions and thoughts are complex, along with her relationships. This story looks at a survivor's guilt with the key take-away: you don't have to be responsible for a tragedy to care about the consequences. Overall, *The Stars are a Million Glittering Worlds* is a thoughtful book that will stay with you long after you've finished reading.

Reviewed by Sara
Emma's at Oxford, North Canterbury

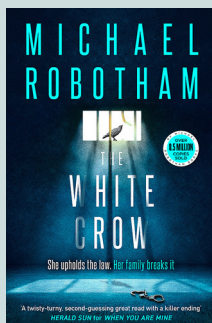
Give this a try if you loved *Everything is Beautiful and Everything Hurts* by Josie Shapiro.



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ADULT FICTION



The White Crow

Michael Robotham

Hachette | \$38.00

As the daughter of a London crime boss, Police Constable Philomena McCarthy walks a thin blue line keeping the two sides of her complicated life apart. On patrol one night she discovers a child in pyjamas, wandering alone. Taking

Daisy home, Phil uncovers the aftermath of a deadly home invasion, as three miles away a prominent jeweller is found strapped to an explosive in his ransacked store. The crimes are linked, and all the evidence points to Phil's father as the mastermind.



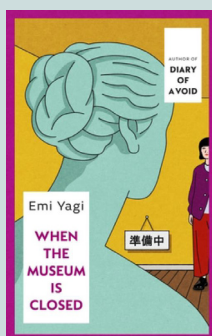
The Safekeep

Yael van der Wouden

Penguin Random House | \$26.00

Winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction 2025 and now available in B-format. It is 1961 and the rural Dutch province of Overijssel is quiet. Bomb craters have been filled, buildings reconstructed, and the war is truly over. Living alone in

her late mother's country home, Isabel knows her life is as it should be – led by routine and discipline. But all is upended when her brother Louis brings his graceless new girlfriend Eva, leaving her at Isabel's doorstep as a guest, to stay for the season.



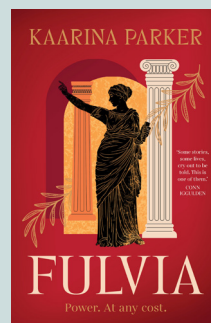
When the Museum is Closed

Emi Yagi

Penguin Random House | \$38.00

A fresh and original queer love story, and a workplace novel of a very different kind. Rika Horiuchi's new part-time job is to converse with a statue of the Venus de Milo, in Latin, every Monday, when the museum is closed. Initially reluctant,

Rika starts to enjoy her strange new job as she and Venus talk about everything. They fall in love and, with the help of a statue of Artemis' hunting dog, eventually break free.



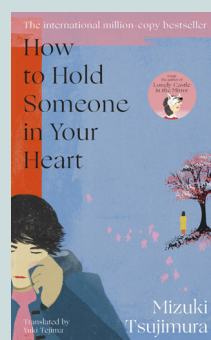
Fulvia

Kaarina Parker

Echo | \$37.00

In the dying days of the Roman republic, a remarkable woman steps out of the shadows and beyond the boundaries imposed on her sex, driven by an unstoppable ambition. Kaarina Parker's stunning debut novel, told in the compelling

voice of this brilliant woman from history, brings Fulvia and the society in which she lived vividly to life.



How to Hold Someone in Your Heart

Mizuki Tsujimura

Doubleday | \$38.00

The bestselling companion read to *Lost Souls Meet Under a Full Moon*, now translated into English. Ayumi is searching for the best way to balance the responsibility of his special powers for connecting the

living and the afterlife with his own desires as a young man in the real world. In his meetings, a young film star, an amateur historian, two mourning families and a former cook learn to lose their regrets, open up to the unexpected, and cherish what they already have.



The Spanish Daughter

Soraya Lane

Sphere | \$38.00

When Rose discovers a mysterious box after her mother's death, clues lead her from London to a grand estate in Argentina. There, she unearths a decades-old love story between a Spanish heiress and a stable

hand, torn apart by duty and inheritance. As Rose grows closer to Benjamin, a charming local who encourages her to rediscover her roots, she must decide: will she follow her heart, or sacrifice love to mend old family wounds? A sweeping tale of passion, legacy, and self-discovery across generations.

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ADULT NON-FICTION

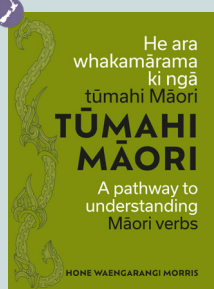


No, I Don't Get Danger Money

Lisette Reymer
Allen & Unwin NZ | \$38.00

A no-hold-barred account of what it was really like to cover some of the most dangerous and extraordinary moments in recent history. A world away from the Waikato farm she grew up on, Lisette Reymer

suddenly found herself reporting from one of the most dangerous places on earth. And she kept going back. Driven by a desire to tell people's stories, wherever they are: the right stories, not the easy ones, during some of the biggest global headlines in decades.

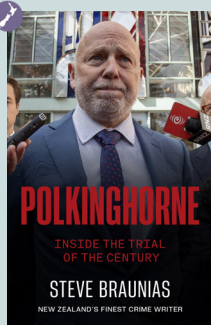


Tūmahi Māori

Dr Hone
Waengarangi Morris
Massey University Press | \$45.00

This indispensable book shares the teaching strategies of one of the most experienced teachers of te reo Māori in Aotearoa. Its explanations and structures,

set out in both te reo Māori and English, reflect a Māori perspective that will improve understanding and accuracy in the use of te reo Māori. This guide will teach readers to be skillful, accurate and confident in their grasp of grammar in the te reo Māori space.



Polkinghorne

Steve Braunias
Allen & Unwin NZ | \$38.00

The death of Pauline Hanna in her home in Remuera, and the arrest of her husband, eye surgeon Dr Philip Polkinghorne, led to an epic trial that played out like a scandalous exposé of rich Auckland life. Literary journalist Steve Braunias

pieces it all together and presents an unforgettable drama, including an extraordinary encounter that will leave readers stunned. *Polkinghorne* dives deep inside the courtroom case that gripped a nation.

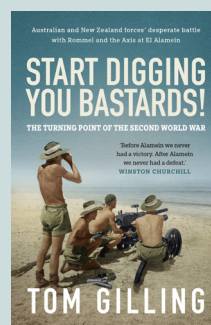


Comfort Cooking

Wendy Morgan
Bateman Books | \$45.00

Whether it's the end of a hard day at work, you've got lots of hungry mouths to feed, or you're simply craving something nourishing that also fills you up, it's time to get busy in the kitchen with Wendy Morgan's no-fuss comfort food.

From one-pot meals to basic breads, hearty soups, punchy preserves and delectable snacks and sweets, this book is all about stocking up the pantry and freezer and providing plenty of stress-free options for those busy days.

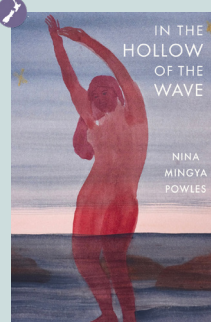


Start Digging, You Bastards!

Tom Gilling
Allen & Unwin NZ | \$38.00

The gripping story of Australians' and New Zealanders' key role defeating the Axis in North Africa – a true turning point of World War II. Bestselling author Tom Gilling recounts in vivid detail the brutal hand-to-

hand fighting, deadly artillery barrages and momentous tank battles that characterised the desert war, culminating in two immense clashes involving hundreds of thousands of troops around an isolated Egyptian railway halt at El Alamein.



In the Hollow of the Wave

Nina Mingya Powles
Auckland University Press | \$25.00

In her second book of poetry, Nina Mingya Powles skillfully threads together themes of belonging and material inheritance against a backdrop of verse, collage and textile. From shorelines in Aotearoa, the UK and

across Asia, this collection moves through words and images to explore water and the body, sewing and art-making, personal histories and multicultural identities, questioning the possibilities of what a poem can be.

KIDS' BOOKS

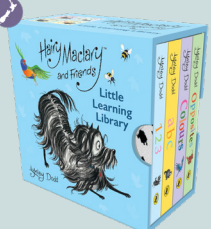


Koro Wētā

Heather Haylock,
Sarah Trolle (Illus) and
Ngairo Eruera (Trans)
Oratia Media | \$23.00

A fun, bilingual story about Aotearoa's own world heavyweight champion wētā! Gumboots are our hero's favourite footwear, but

a giant wētā also thinks they make the perfect home. After a battle of wits and some yucky moments, a happy compromise for co-existence is found: a wētā hotel and some new gumboots – that are see-through! In this book, tamariki will learn more about the five species of wētā and what makes them so wonderful.



Hairy Maclary and Friends: Little Learning Library

Lynley Dodd
Penguin Random House | \$16.00

Little ones love to learn with rascally Hairy Maclary and his rollicking gang! Introducing

important first concepts including the alphabet, counting to 10, colours and opposites, this delightful tiny board book collection in a slipcase makes a perfect first library for the youngest fans of Hairy Maclary and his friends. The sturdy board pages are the ideal size for little hands to hold and durable enough to withstand the rough and tumble of toddlers.

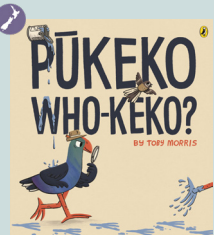


Splash!

Donovan Bixley
Little Moa | \$25.00

Join Donovan Bixley as he dives in and explores the amazing coastal creatures of Aotearoa. Deep sea divers, great survivors,

record-breakers and New Zealand's world champion fliers! Find out what makes the flora and fauna of Aotearoa so unique in this charming picture book.

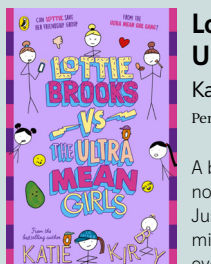


Pūkeko Who-keko?

Toby Morris
Picture Puffin | \$21.00

Who spilled that blue paint? There's a messy mystery afoot, and Detective Clue-keko needs your help to solve it! Join the hunt and

follow the paint trail with Detective Clue-keko as the pūkeko chaos accumulates. And who-keko knew-keko that so many words rhyme with pūkeko? Watch out for cartoonist Toby Morris's flying dad jokes in this delightful visual and verbal play on words that rhyme with pūkeko, one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most iconic and personality-laden blue birds.

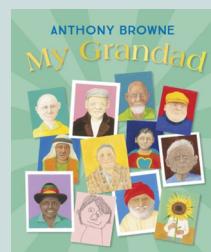


Lottie Brooks vs The Ultra Mean Girls

Katie Kirby
Penguin Random House | \$21.00

A brand-new story in the phenomenal Lottie Brooks series. Just when Lottie thought life might be going back to normal, everything goes wrong again!

Amber's hanging out with the Ultra Mean Girl Gang at school and is completely ignoring the Queens of Eight Green. Mum's gone back to work and expects Lottie to 'help around the house more'. Bella keeps biting everyone and Pot Noodle will not stop sniffing every dog's bum. DISASTER! Now Lottie has to come up with a foolproof plan to get Amber back before her friendship group is destroyed forever.



My Grandad

Anthony Browne
Penguin Random House | \$21.00

A celebration of grandads everywhere! Grandads: all different and all a little bit the same. We love our grandads and they love us! Award-winning author and

illustrator and former Children's Laureate Anthony Browne shares a warm look at the relationship between grandad and grandchild.



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