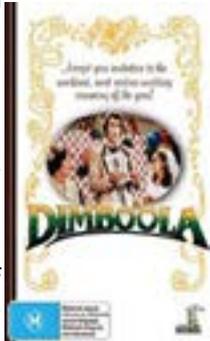


Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching.

## Dimboola

Format: DVD

This film made in the late '70s is a typically riotous Aussie comedy, where the lead-up to a wedding is the reason for general mayhem. With many scenes of the streets of Dimboola, it's interesting to see how the old hotel looked before it was burned. Watch it if you can deal with the antics of badly-behaved locals on a buck's and hen's night (separate events) and lots of corny humour.



## All Good Things

Author: Sarah Turnbull

Format: eBook

For many people, finding the love of your life and moving to Paris would come pretty close to having it all.

Having shared her story in the bestselling *Almost French*, Sarah Turnbull seemed to have had more than her fair share of dreams come true. But there was still one dream she was beginning to fear might be impossible.

Then out of the blue an opportunity to embark on another adventure offers a new beginning - and new hope.

Leaving Paris behind was never going to be easy. But it helps when your destination is known as paradise on earth, Tahiti...

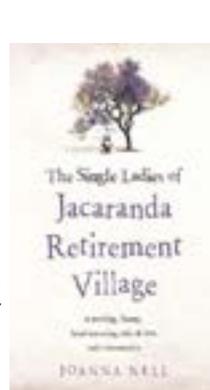


## The single ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village

Author: Joanna Nell

Format: Book, eAudiobook

The life of 79-year-old pensioner PEGGY SMART is as beige as the décor in her retirement village. Her week revolves around aqua aerobics and appointments with her doctor. Following a very minor traffic accident, things have turned frosty with her grown-up children and she is afraid they are trying to take away her independence. Noticing her memory isn't what it used to be, Peggy is taking ever more inventive steps to cover up her dwindling faculties. The highlight of Peggy's day is watching her neighbour Brian head out for his morning swim. She dreams of inviting the handsome widower - treasurer of the Residents' Committee and one of the few eligible men in the village - to an intimate dinner. But why would an educated man like Brian, a chartered accountant no less, look twice at Peggy? As a woman of a certain age, she fears she has become invisible, even to men in their eighties. But a chance encounter with an old school friend she hasn't seen in five decades - the glamorous fashionista ANGIE VALENTINE - sets Peggy on an unexpected journey of self-discovery.

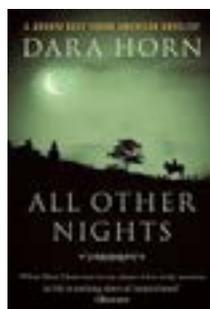


## All Other Nights

Author: Dara Horn

Format: Book

My interest in the American Civil War is limited, yet I seem drawn to stories set at that time; maybe it's due to having read Lousia May Alcott's *Little Women* and *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell as a child. *All Other Nights* is a tale of espionage and romance, experienced during an incredibly tough period. Jacob is a spy for the Union, sent into Confederate territory to eliminate a plotter of President Lincoln's assassination, then to marry a known Confederate spy. Jacob falls deeply in love with his bride, who is also a gifted illusionist who puts her skills to good use for her masters. Can their love survive the conflict? If you enjoy this kind of story, you could also try *Neverhome* by Laird Hunt - The American Civil War separates a young couple when she decides to go and fight for the Union Army, while he stays at home and looks after their farm. With her true identity disguised, our heroine proves herself the equal of most any soldier, and becomes known, through an act of chivalry towards a civilian woman, as 'Gallant Ash'. An unusual take on this period of history and an easy - if at times challenging - read.



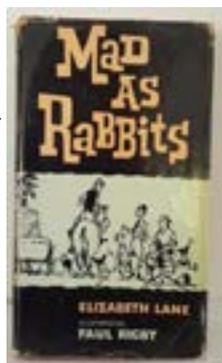
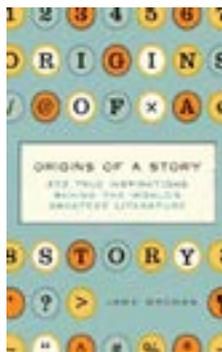
Good Reading Magazine has lots of news about books and authors - catch up on the latest releases by local and international authors, read in-depth interviews and book reviews. Available for free with your library card.



## Origins of a Story: 202 True Inspirations Behind the World's Greatest Literature

Author: Jake Grogan  
Format: Book

E.B. White once said that “a book is a sneeze,” and it’s hard to disagree. Each classic literary work began as a germ of an idea, often conceived in the most unlikely circumstances and transposed despite critical indifference, personal tragedy, and plain old writer’s block. But few sneezes are purely random occurrences. Arthur Golden knew he wanted to write about a geisha’s family in Japan, he just didn’t know how—until he met one. Stephen King needed an outlet to examine his own cocaine dependency, so he came up with *Annie Wilkes*; suddenly, he was writing *Misery*. Ann Patchett wrote *Bel Canto* after watching the Lima Crisis unfold over 126 excruciating days. If these are sneezes, then they are loud ones. Inside this book are the origins of 202 of the most famous books ever written, from *Catch-22* to *Curious George*. Their histories are not just context clues, but inspiring tales in their own right—meant to teach, astonish, and galvanize. Spanning across every genre, from comedy to tragedy to science fiction, this collection offers origin stories for the works of luminaries like Lee, Dahl, Vonnegut, Wilde, and Faulkner. These books all found their way to the page thanks to the brilliance—and persistence—of their writers and are a reminder that behind every story is an author with a story of their own.



## Mad as Rabbits

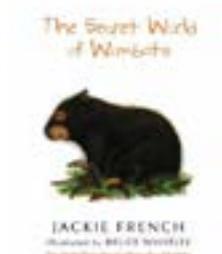
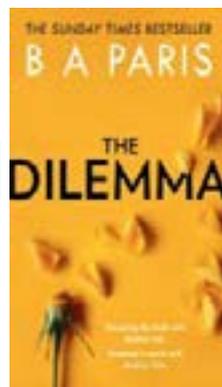
Author: Elizabeth Lane  
Format: Book

“This is the idyllic and rollickingly humorous story of a girl growing up in a large family on a farm in the Victorian Wimmera. Highlights of the book include the adventures of the adult delinquent Uncle Charlie, and irascible and erratic shearer who temporarily abandons the manufacture of double headed pennies to join the Salvation Army; the travelling salesman’s hysterically nightmarish visit to the Murphys; and the delights of acquiring good that fall from passing trains. Mingled with the humor of the book are touches of pathos, and the underlying theme of the growth of the author from childhood to maturing adolescence. Elizabeth Lane has told the story of her childhood with warmth, humor, and a rare honesty.” This one has been a personal favorite of mine since I was a young girl, and when the school library at Goroke “weeded” it from the shelves, I gladly stepped in and took control of it. Funny, sad at times, but you envisage what the Wimmera was once like, and the hard times people went through together, and were still a community.

## The Dilemma

Author: B.A. Paris  
Format: eBook, Book

It’s Livia’s 40th birthday and she’s having the party of a lifetime to make up for the wedding she never had. Everyone she loves will be there except her daughter Marnie, who’s studying abroad. But although Livia loves Marnie, she’s secretly glad she won’t be at the party. She needs to tell Adam something about their daughter but she’s waiting until the party is over so they can have this last happy time together. Adam wants everything to be perfect for Livia so he’s secretly arranged for Marnie to come home and surprise her on her birthday. During the day, he hears some terrible news. He needs to tell Livia, because how can the party go on? But she’s so happy, so excited - and the guests are about to arrive.



## Secret World of Wombats

Author: Jackie French and Bruce Whatley  
Format: Book  
VIC Premiers’ Reading Challenge Year 3 and Year 4

Companion non-fiction title for the bestselling *Diary of a Wombat*. A non-fiction book that explores everything you’ve ever wanted to know about wombats. Jackie French loves wombats. She’s been living with and studying them for over 30 years, and they have been featured characters in many of her books. Now her beloved wombats take centre stage, as Jackie reveals everything you have ever wanted to know about them - from their zoological history to habitation and habits. Jackie also shares some personal stories from her experiences living with these wonderful creatures. There are also wombat Q&As and wombat jokes sprinkled throughout the book.