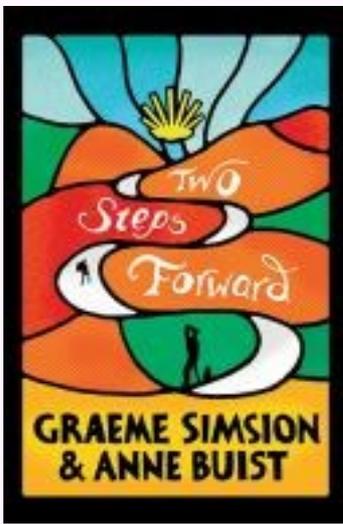


Library Lovers' List

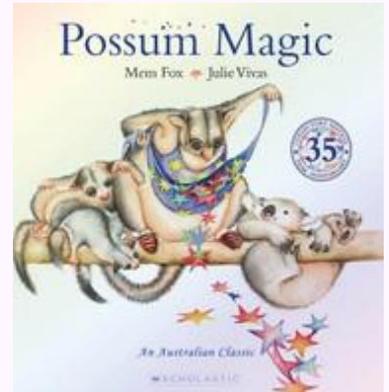


[Two Steps Forward](#) Graeme Simsion & Anne Buist – a husband and wife writing collaboration takes us on this modern-day romantic adventure on the Camino de Santiago walking trail through France and Spain, with middle-agers from two different walks of life.

Why? As in real life, a happy ending is not always assured...

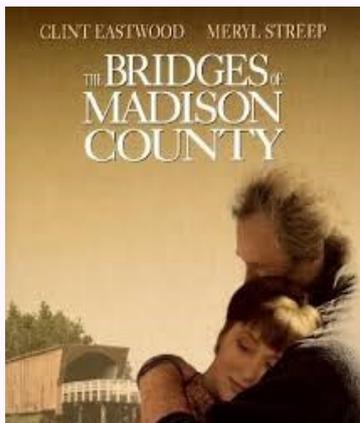
[Possum Magic](#) Two possums go in search of the magic that will make the invisible one of them visible, and eat their way around Australia.

Why? The theme of a mother's love and what she does for her child, plus the beautiful Julie Vivas watercolour illustrations.



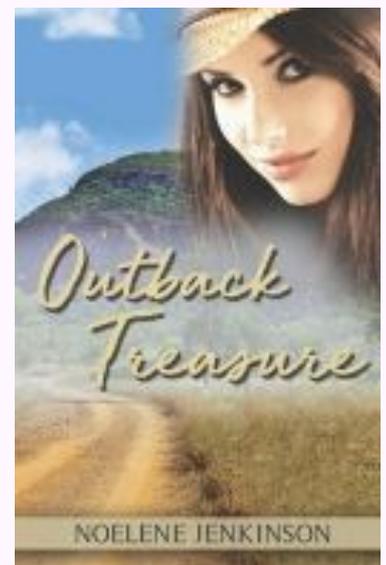
[The Bridges of Madison County](#) not much more than a novella, this deeply affecting story of past-love, longing and regret is as good as the genre gets...and written by a man!

Why? If you enjoyed the movie, you'll fall in love with the book...and want to read more by this great writer.



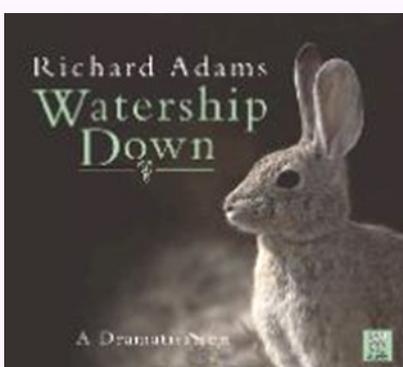
[Outback Treasure](#). Wrongly disgraced and her career left in tatters, palaeontologist Darcy Manning embarks on a mission to expose the fossil smuggling syndicate responsible, to clear her name and reputation. But how will she resist alluring country boy and fellow fossil-hunter Mitch Beaumont, This is one woman's story of a search for truth and justice, even at the risk of her own heart.

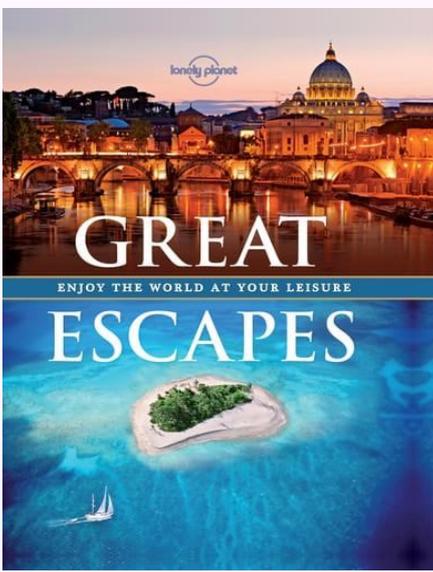
Why? Firstly it was written by a local author, and second you want Darcy to get her guy.



Set in the English countryside, [Watership Down](#) tells the tale of a small group of rabbits forced to abandon their warren and seek a safe home. They set off to find a new place to live, encountering all kinds of danger, from the landscape, from humans, and from other rabbits.

Why? It's a book about bunnies rather than rabbits, and family. It's also the inspiration for Art Garfunkel's 'Bright eyes' both stirred the emotions.



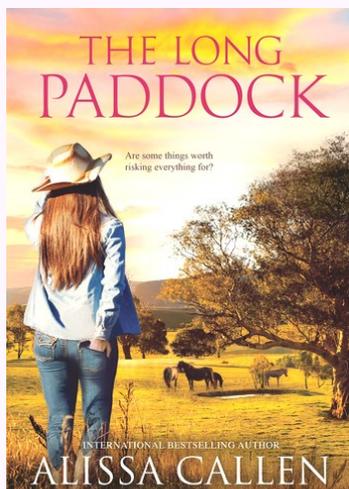


[Great Escapes](#) showcases the world's most enjoyable escapes, celebrates the sheer pleasure of travel. Take time out to indulge in romantic getaways, culinary adventures, or musical journeys. Or simply revel in pure relaxation. You deserve it!

Why? Because sometimes it is the destination you fall in love with. Hard to go past a beach so check out pages 118-121 as my pick.

[Jane Eyre](#) is every woman's bad dream sequence, wherein woman: has painful childhood; finds love; discovers love has 'skeletons in the closet'; flees and wanders upon the moor; finds comfort in another's home; almost marries but returns to discover if her first love was true after all.

Why? While it is an epic, gothic classic, it lacks some of the OTT, grave-digging melodrama of *Wuthering Heights* by sister Emily. Also recommended: *Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Brontë – another epic Brontë-sibling story, with a bit of bad-dream which all turns out okay in the end.



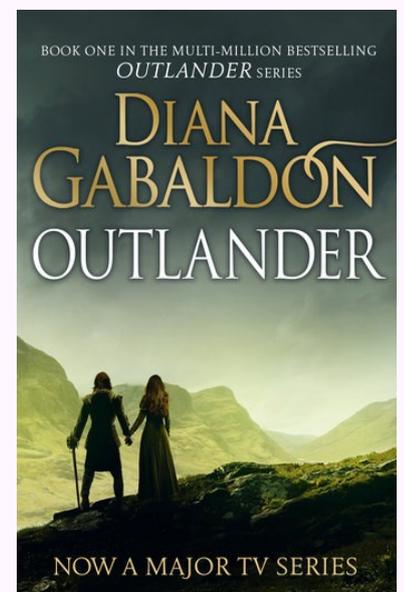
In [The Long Paddock](#) country-girl Cressida Knight fills her days with her farm, a mischievous pet bull called Reggie & her volunteer emergency services work. The busier she keeps, the less she thinks about the cowboy who left her behind.

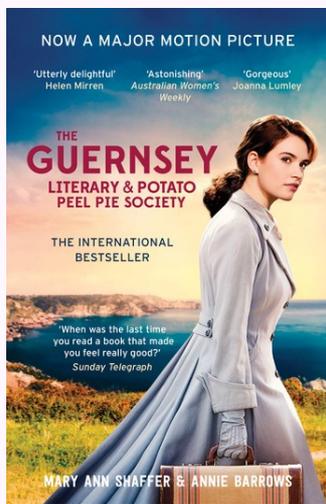
Why? A captivating love story about community and second chances. Australian fiction with strong women who fall in love.

[Outlander](#)—a series

Claire Randall is leading a double life. She has a husband in one century, and a lover in another... In 1945, Claire Randall, a former combat nurse, is back from the war & reunited with her husband on a second honeymoon when she innocently touches a boulder in one of the ancient stone circles that dot the British Isles. Suddenly she is a Sassenach, an "outlander"--in a Scotland torn by war and raiding border clans in the year of our Lord...1743.

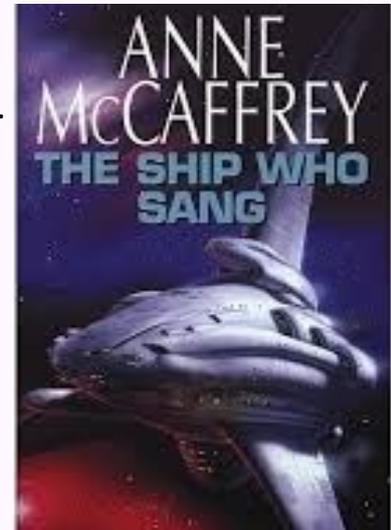
Why? It blends rich historical fiction with riveting adventure and a truly epic love story.





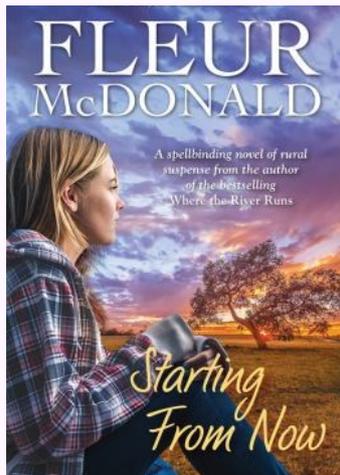
[The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society](#) (a book club born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members are discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island). Juliet Ashton a free-spirited writer forms an unexpected bond with the residents of Guernsey Island in the aftermath of World War II when she decides to write a book about their experiences during the war.

Why? Gripping, dramatic, touching and oh-so-romantic in places.



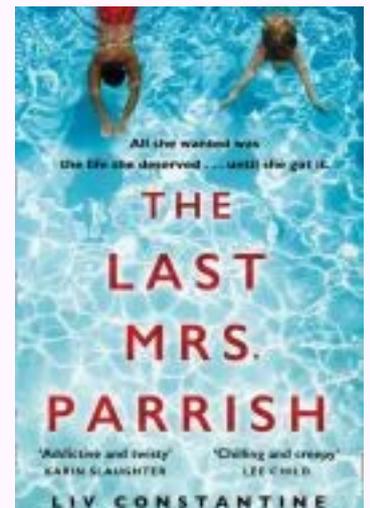
[The Ship who sang](#)—The 'Brain' was perfect, the tiny, crippled body useless. So technology rescued the brain and placed it into an environment that conditioned it to live in a different kind of body - a spaceship, and paired it with a 'Brawn' - a human trained as a partner for the brainship. Helva the Brain is partnered, Jennan, with whom she falls in love. The feeling is mutual, and they form a deep attachment until...

Why? Science-fiction adventure teamed with a romantic partnership. If you don't shed a tear you aren't human. Found it deeply poignant.



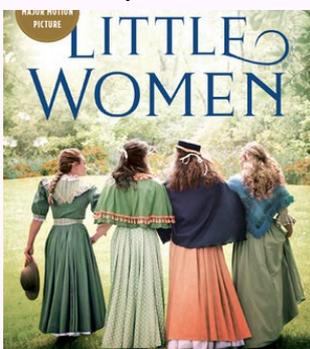
[Starting from now](#) with Fleur McDonald's character Detective Dave Burrows. Zara has left her much-loved city life to relocate to Barker, the sleepy country town in which she grew up. For Zara, family comes first. But she needs to work too, and the town's police force is a rural journalist's best source of information.

Why? The stories are typically Outback Australian with authentic characters and interesting storylines.



[The Last Mrs Parrish](#) To everyone in the exclusive town of Bishops Harbour, Connecticut, Daphne--a socialite and philanthropist--and her real-estate mogul husband, Jackson, are a couple straight out of a fairy tale. Amber's envy could eat her alive ... if she didn't have a plan. Amber uses Daphne's compassion and caring to insinuate herself into the family's life, the first step in a meticulous scheme to undermine her—beware what you wish for.

Why? A darker romance in a relationship triangle with surprising twists and unexpected consequences.



Generations of readers have fallen in love with the March sisters in Little Women -tomboy Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy. A peerless coming-of-age story set in the American Civil War.

Why? Beautifully romantic, it swept me away in time and place.