

Recommended Reading List: *Mysteries*

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Non Fiction

Fake History : 101 things that never happened / Jo Hedwig Teeuwisse 2023

Fake news about the past is fake history. Did Hugo Boss design the Nazi uniforms? Did Vikings have horns on their helmets? Did Napoleon shoot the nose off the Sphinx? *Spoiler Alert* The answer to all those questions is no. Jo Teeuwisse, better known as The Fake History Hunter, is on a one-woman mission to hunt down fake history and reclaim the truth for the rest of us. From the famous quote 'Let them eat cake' mistakenly attributed to Marie Antoinette to the apocryphal horns that adorned Viking helmets, fake history continues to shape the story we tell about who we are and how we got here. Yet every day false claims about the past are made in the news, in magazines and especially on social media. In this funny and illuminating book, Jo Teeuwisse debunks 101 myths so you can correct your friends and family and arm yourself with the tools to spot and debunk fake history wherever you encounter it.

The Mystery of Charles Dickens / A. N. Wilson 2020

Charles Dickens was a superb public performer, a great orator and one of the most famous of the Eminent Victorians. Experiencing the worst and best of life during the Victorian Age, Dickens was not merely the conduit through whom some of the most beloved characters in literature came into the world. He was one of them. Filled with the twists, pathos and unusual characters that sprang from this novelist's extraordinary imagination, *The Mystery of Charles Dickens* looks back from the legendary writer's death to recall the key events in his life. In doing so, A. N. Wilson seeks to understand Dickens' creative genius and enduring popularity. Following his life from cradle to grave, it becomes clear that Dickens's fiction drew from his own experiences - a fact he acknowledged. Like *Oliver Twist*, Dickens suffered a wretched childhood, then grew up to become not only a respectable gentleman but an artist of prodigious popularity. Dickens knew firsthand the poverty and pain his characters endured, including the scandal of a failed marriage. Going beyond standard narrative biography, Wilson brilliantly revisits the wellspring of Dickens's vast and wild imagination, to reveal at long last why his novels captured the hearts of nineteenth-century readers - and why they continue to resonate today.

Lasseter's Gold / Warren Brown 2015

When Harold Bell Lasseter disappeared in late 1930 it could have been the end of a mystery. Thirty-three years earlier he had staggered out of the desert, almost dead, his pockets bulging with gold, claiming to have found a 15 kilometre gold reef. The mystery deepened when he and a surveyor returned to the isolated and mysterious ranges where the reef was supposed to be located. It became legendary when the largest inland expedition since Burke and Wills was launched. In *Lasseter's Gold*, Warren Brown vividly recreates the drama of the search - the characters, the fights, the soaring temperatures, the impossible terrain, the plane crash, the pistol-carrying dingo-skiner who appeared out of nowhere. And just who was this man Lasseter? A one-time sailor, a bigamist, a man who claimed John Bradfield stole his plans for a single-span bridge to cross Sydney Harbour - was he also a very, very good liar? *Lasseter's Gold* is the gripping story of an outback legend. Is it just a myth - or is there really a massive gold reef out there, just waiting to be discovered?

The Mystery of AE1 : Australia's lost submarine and crew / Kathryn Spurling 2014

Australia's first submarines, AE1 and AE2, entered Sydney Harbour in time to join the celebration of Empire Day 24 May 1914 after a voyage from Britain of 83 days, 60 of which were spent at sea. Australians were fascinated by their submarines and proud that their young navy was bravely at the forefront of such technology. Britain declared war against Germany on 4 August 1914 and the British Admiralty despatched the Australian fleet to capture German New Guinea and destroy the German Pacific Fleet. On 14 September AE1 left Rabaul Harbour, with orders to patrol east of Cape Gazelle, and was seen off Duke of York Island in St George's Channel. Then AE1 simply disappeared. This was the first loss of a military unit during the First World War and the beginning of a war for Australians. An ensuing search found no trace, and for the families of the 35 officers and men on board AE1 life would never be the same. This book traces the beginnings of Australia's navy and searches for answers to the questions that continue to be asked.

Under the Lino : the mystery, the history, the community / Caylie Jeffery 2018

When Caylie and David Jeffrey renovated the worst house on the busiest terrace in Milton, they had no idea what treasures they would find secreted inside. The intriguing discovery of 1950s money and bank books hidden under 60 years of old lino had Caylie turning to social media for help. Who were Arthur and Eleanor Webster? Why were they hiding so much money? Who was Muriel White? Why was her bank book hidden in Milton when the address in the back said "Bristol St, West End?"

Pinched or Planted : the Cungelella cattle mystery / Susan McDonald 2010

"Accused of a crime he did not commit, it appeared as if the system was manipulated to point the finger at Graeme and away from other suspects. The case went to committal and the real perpetrators stood back regardless of the fact that this accusation had the potential to incarcerate Graeme for years.

Two mobs of high profile cattle were planted on our property. They came from paddocks on the main road close to the Cungelella homestead. Neighbours under the protection of the Stock and Rural Crime Investigation Squad, overran our property causing thousands of dollars worth of damage.

Little effort appeared to be made to look for evidence of how the cattle came to be on Albeni. Graeme had neither the motive, opportunity or the means to get them to where they were found.

However, they did not get there unassisted. Despite Australia's pride in its democratic society, the assumption that an individual is innocent until proven guilty was not extended to my husband.

This is our story". Susan McDonald

Tamam Shud : the Somerton man mystery / Kerry Greenwood 2012

In 1948 a man was found dead on an Adelaide beach. Well-dressed and unmarked, he had a half-smoked cigarette by his side, but no identity documents. Six decades on we don't know who he was, how he got there or how he died. Somerton Man remains one of Australia's most mysterious cold cases. Yet it is the bizarre details of this case that make it the stuff of a spy novel. The missing labels from all his clothing. The tiny piece of paper with the words Tamam Shud found sewn into the lining of the dead man's coat. A mysterious code found etched inside the very book of Persian poetry from which this note was torn. Brimming with facts that are stranger than fiction, the case has intrigued novelist Kerry Greenwood for almost her whole life. She goes on a journey into her own past to try to solve this crime, uncovering a new way of writing about true crime and herself as she goes.

Fiction

***The Mystery Guest* / Nita Prose 2024**

Molly Gray wears her Head Maid badge proudly for every shift at the Regency Grand Hotel, plumping pillows, sweeping up the guests' secrets, silently restoring rooms to a state of perfection. But when a renowned guest -- a famous mystery writer -- drops very dead in the grand tea room, Molly has an unusual clean-up on her hands. As rumours and suspicion swirl in the hotel corridors, it's clear there's grime lurking beneath the gilt. And Molly knows that she alone holds the key to the mystery. But unlocking it means thinking about the past, about Gran, and everything else she's kept tidied away in her memory for so long.

***Bloodwood Creek* / Kerry McGinnis 2023**

When Emily's beautiful cousin Aspen goes missing somewhere in the Outback, no one seems to take it seriously, not even the police. After all, Aspen has a history of drug use and a string of broken relationships to her name. Emily knows that her disappearance is totally out of character, even for the family's wild child, so she books a flight to the Northern Territory to find her. Emily's search takes her south of Darwin to every road stop and tourist trap she can find, but the only person who turns up is the last person she expected to see, her ex-husband Ben. But there is a violent killer on the loose and after two brazen attempts on Emily's life, it soon becomes clear that someone wants Emily gone too, someone who is willing to do anything to stop her following Aspen's tracks.

***The Book of Eve* / Meg Clothier 2023**

Beatrice is the convent's librarian. For years, she has shunned the company of her sisters, finding solace only with her manuscripts. Then, one carnival night, two women, bleeding and stricken, are abandoned outside the convent's walls. Moments from death, one of them presses something into Beatrice's hands: a bewitching book whose pages have a dangerous life of their own. But men of the faith want the book destroyed, and a zealous preacher has tracked it to her door. Her sisters' lives - or her obsession. Beatrice must decide. The book's voice is growing stronger. An ancient power uncoils. Will she dare to listen?

***The Twyford Code* / Janice Hallett 2022**

Forty years ago, Steven Smith found a copy of a famous children's book by disgraced author Edith Twyford, its margins full of strange markings and annotations. Wanting to know more, he took it to his English teacher Miss Iles, not realising the chain of events that he was setting in motion. Miss Iles became convinced that the book was the key to solving a puzzle, and that a message in secret code ran through all Twyford's novels. Then Miss Iles disappeared on a class field trip, and Steven's memory won't allow him to remember what happened. Now, out of prison after a long stretch, Steven decides to investigate the mystery that has haunted him for decades. Was Miss Iles murdered? Was she deluded? Or was she right about the code? And is it still in use today? Desperate to recover his memories and find out what really happened to Miss Iles, Steven revisits the people and places of his childhood. But it soon becomes clear that the Twyford Code has great power, and he isn't the only one trying to solve it.

***When One of us Hurts* / Monica Vu 2023**

Port Brighton hates outsiders. The small coastal town has its own ways of dealing with the evil, the foolish, the misled, and it holds tightly to them. But the seams start to split after two deaths occur on the same tragic night: a baby abandoned at the foot of a lighthouse, and a drunken teenager drowned in the storming sea. Livvy is an insider. She keeps a watchful eye on what's happening in town while looking out for her troubled older brother. What has broken inside him - and why? Marie is an outsider. She's escaped Port Brighton and started a new life, but she can't forget the night at the lighthouse - it changed her family forever. As gossip fuels rumours and tensions erode trust, the bonds that keep Port Brighton together begin to fray, threatening to expose the truth about more than just the two deaths ...

***The Orchid Hour* / Nancy Bilyeau 2023**

New York City, 1923. Zia De Luca's life is about to be shattered. Having lost her husband to The Great War, she lives with her son and in-laws in Little Italy and works at the public library. But when a quiet poetry lover is murdered outside the library, the police investigation focuses on Zia. After a second tragedy strikes even closer to home, Zia learns that both crimes are connected to a new speakeasy in Greenwich Village called The Orchid Hour. When the police investigation stalls, Zia decides to find her own answers. A cousin with whom she has a special bond serves as a guide to the shadow realm of The Orchid Hour, a world filled with enticements Zia has shunned up to now. She must contend with a group of players determined to find wealth and power in New York on their own terms. In this heady atmosphere, Zia begins to wonder if she too could rewrite her life's rules. As she's pulled in deeper and deeper, will Zia be able to bring the killers to justice before they learn her secret?

***An Afterlife for Rosemary Lamb : a mystery* / Louise Wolhuter 2022**

Winifred is a small town full of prejudices and assumptions. Meg and Lily are outsiders who live on its margins at Magpie Beach, where they've managed to keep out of each other's - and everyone else's - way for years. That is, until Rosemary comes along and draws them into an unlikely friendship. When nine-year-old Jessie Else goes missing, the residents of Winifred begin locking their doors, and fingers soon start pointing towards Magpie Beach. Questions threaten to undo Meg, Rosemary and Lily's quiet existence, and the women band together to protect themselves, and to protect each other, but all three are holding secrets that are too big for them to keep on their own. It's only a matter of time before they start to unravel-and nothing will ever be the same again.

***An Australian Christmas Murder* / David Knijnenburg 2022**

In a grand mansion, on an isolated island off the coast of Australia, the Cavendish Family gather to celebrate Christmas. Amongst the tinsel, fruitcake, traditional family tensions and awkward politeness, strange events begin to occur, and members of the family begin to go missing. At first this doesn't seem to be any cause for alarm... until people begin to die in the most unexpected and gruesome fashion. Completely cut off from the outside world by a severe weather event, members of the family are brutally targeted. Is there a killer lurking somewhere on the island? Is it someone in their midst..? Are the killings somehow connected to an old Christmas carol, will they learn the truth before they are picked off one by one?

***Clarke* / Holly Throsby 2022**

On a hot morning in 1991 in the regional town of Clarke, Barney Clarke (no relation) is woken by the unexpected arrival of many policemen: they are going to search his backyard for the body of a missing woman. Next door, Leonie Wallace and little Joe watch the police cars through their kitchen window. Leonie has been waiting for this day for six years. She is certain that her friend - Ginny Lawson - is buried in that backyard under a slab of suspicious concrete. But the fate of Ginny Lawson is not the only mystery in Clarke. Barney lives alone in a rented house with a ring on his finger, but where is Barney's wife? Leonie lives with four-year-old Joe, but where is Joe's mother?

***Double Lives* / Kate McCaffrey 2022**

When Western Australian radio journalist Amy Rhinehard decides to use a crime podcast to explore a gruesome murder, she's seeking ratings, awards and career glory. Her idea: to use the listeners of her radio show as its co-creators, with live-time calls and digital suggestion boards. The case: Jonah Scott, charged and imprisoned for life for the murder of his girlfriend, Casey Williams. Although Jonah went to great lengths to hide the body, when arrested he confessed immediately and pleaded guilty. Is this case really as open-and-shut as it would seem? Or is there something really more sinister afoot? Amy's investigation plunges her into a world of drugs, sex, gender identity and religious cults... and in her search for the truth, she finds she also has to answer questions within herself.