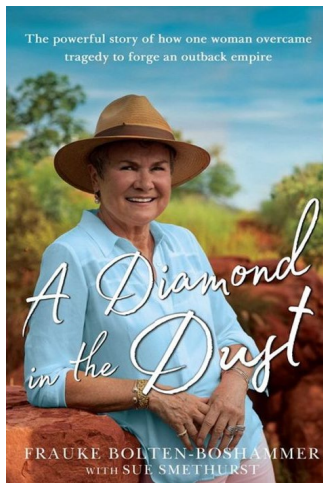


## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER READERS

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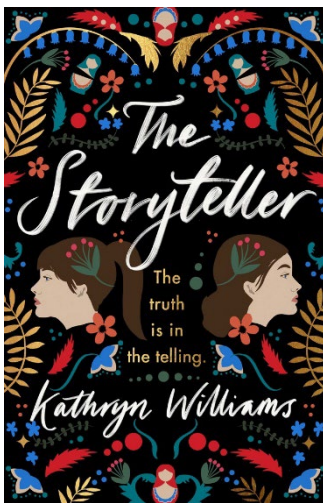
***A Diamond in the Dust* / Frauke Bolten-Boshammer with Sue Smethurst    Non Fiction    2018**



The powerful true story of how one woman turned outback dust into a diamond empire. Within minutes of landing in Kununurra, Frauke Bolten had made up her mind to get on a plane back home to Germany. It was 1981 and the dusty frontier town was no place for a woman. However, Frauke stayed, determined to help her husband carve out a new life farming. Tragedy struck just three years later when Friedrich took his own life and she was left to raise their family alone. Twenty-six years after she sold her first necklace off the back porch, Kimberley Fine Diamonds in Kununurra is now home to one of the world's largest collections of Argyle pink diamonds, with a client list that includes Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. Frauke is credited for not only pioneering an industry, but for putting the tiny outback town and its precious diamonds on the map.

*A Diamond in the Dust* is a tale of love and loss, hardship and heartache, but ultimately the inspiring story of how a naïve young girl from Germany overcame tragedy to pioneer a diamond empire in one of the most unforgiving terrains on earth.

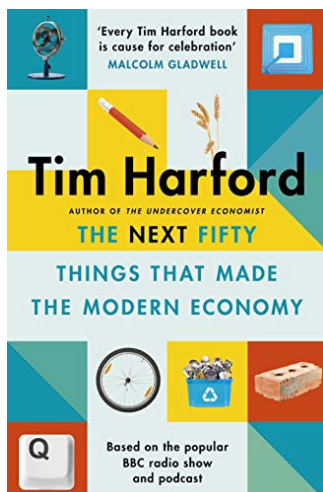
***The Storyteller* / Kathryn Williams    Fiction    2022**



It's not every day you discover you might be related to Anastasia...or that the tragic princess actually survived her assassination attempt and has been living as the woman you know as Aunt Anna.

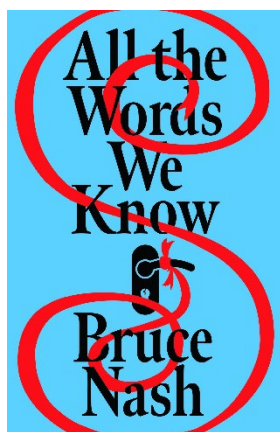
For Jess Morgan, who is growing tired of living her life to please everyone else, discovering her late aunt's diaries shows her she's not the only one struggling to hide who she really is. But was her aunt truly a Romanov princess? Or is this some elaborate hoax? With the help of a supremely dorky, but undeniably cute, local college student named Evan, Jess digs into the century-old mystery. But soon Jess realizes there's another, bigger truth waiting to be revealed: Jess Morgan. Because if she's learned anything from Aunt Anna, it's that only you can write your own story.

***The Next Fifty: Things that made the modern economy* / Tim Harford    Non Fiction    2020**



In *Fifty Things that Made the Modern Economy*, the revolutionary, acclaimed book, radio series and podcast, bestselling economist Tim Harford introduced us to a selection of fifty radical inventions that changed the world. Now, in this new book, Harford once again brings us an array of remarkable, memorable, curious and often unexpected 'things', inventions that teach us lessons by turns intimate and sweeping about the complex world economy we live in today. From the brick, blockchain and the bicycle to fire, the factory and fundraising, and from solar PV and the pencil to the postage stamp, this brilliant and enlightening collection resonates, fascinates and stimulates. It is a wonderful blend of insight and inspiration from one of Britain's finest non-fiction storytellers.

**All the Words We Know / Bruce Nash    Fiction    2024**



Rose is in her eighties and has dementia, but she's not done with life just yet. Alternately sharp as a tack and spectacularly forgetful, she spends her days roaming the corridors of her aged-care facility, ruminating on the staff and residents and enduring visits from her emotionally distant children and grand-daughters.

But when her friend is found dead after an apparent fall from a window, Rose embarks on an eccentric and deeply personal investigation to discover the truth and exposes all manner of secrets - even some from her own past.

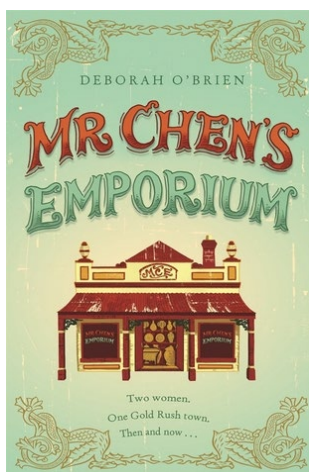
**Servo: Tales from the graveyard shift / David Goodwin    Non Fiction    2024**



Most of us have done our time in the retail trenches, but service stations are undoubtedly the frontline, as Melbourne David Goodwin found out when he started working the weekend graveyard shift at his local servo. From his very first night shift, David absorbed a consistent level of mind-bending lunacy, encountering everything from giant shoplifting bees and balaclava-clad goons hurling cordial-filled water bombs from the sunroof of their BMWs, to anarcho-goths high on MDMA releasing large rats into the store from their matching Harry Potter backpacks. Over the years, David grew to love his mad servo, handing out free pies and chocolate bars on the sly as he grew a backbone and became street smart. Amidst the unrelenting chaos, he eventually made it out of the servo circus - and lived to tell the tale.

For anyone who's ever toiled under the unforgiving fluorescent lights of a customer service job, *Servo* is a side-splitting and darkly mesmeric coming-of-age story from behind the anti-jump wire that will have you gritting your teeth, then cackling at the absurdity, idiocy and utterly beguiling strangeness of those who only come out at night.

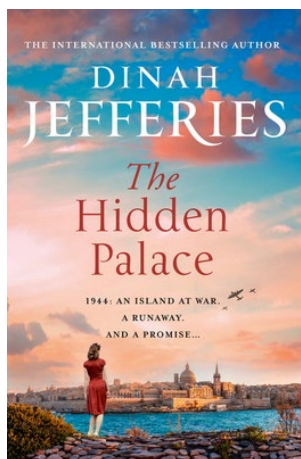
**Mr Chen's Emporium / Deborah O'Brien    Fiction    2012**



The smell of exotic spices enveloped her in a fragrant cloud. Taking a deep breath, she stepped into the shop. Above her strings of brass bells tinkled like fairies laughter. In 1872, seventeen-year-old Amy Duncan arrives in the Gold Rush town of Millbrooke, , having spent the coach journey daydreaming about glittering pavilions and gilded steeples. What she finds is a dusty main street lined with ramshackle buildings. That is until she walks through the doors of Mr Chen's Emporium, a veritable Aladdin's cave, and her life changes forever. Though banned from the store by her dour clergyman father, Amy is entranced by its handsome owner, Charles Chen.

In present-day Millbrooke, recently widowed artist Angie Wallace has rented the Old Manse where Amy once lived. When her landlord produces an antique trunk containing Amy's intriguingly diverse keepsakes - both Oriental and European - Angie resolves to learn more about this mysterious girl from the past. And it is not long before the lives of two very different women, born a century apart, become connected in the most poignant and timeless ways.

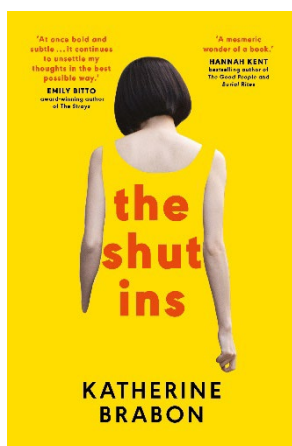
***The Hidden Palace* / Dinah Jefferies    Fiction    2022**



1925. Among the ancient honey-coloured walls of the tiny island of Malta, strangers slip into the shadows and anyone can buy a new name. Rosalie Delacroix flees Paris for a dancer's job in the bohemian clubs deep in its winding streets.

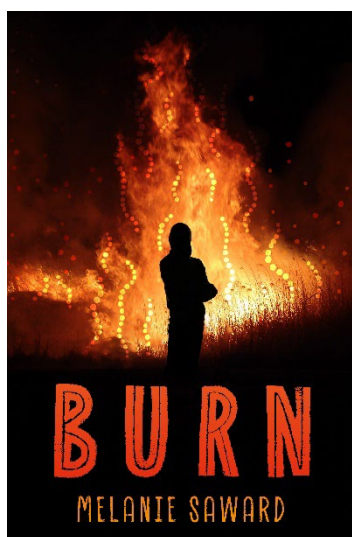
1944. Running from the brutality of war in France, Florence Baudin faces a new life. But her estranged mother makes a desperate request: to find her vanished sister, who went missing years before. Betrayals and secrets, lies and silence hang between the sisters. A faded last letter from Rosalie is Florence's only clue, the war an immovable barrier - and time is running out...

***The shut ins* / Katherine Brabon    Fiction    2021**



Mai and Hikaru went to school together in the city of Nagoya, until Hikaru disappeared when they were eighteen. It is not until ten years later, when Mai runs into Hikaru's mother, Hiromi Sato, that she learns Hikaru has become a hikikomori, a recluse unable to leave his bedroom for years. In secret, Hiromi Sato hires Mai as a 'rental sister', to write letters to Hikaru and encourage him to leave his room. Mai has recently married J, a devoted salaryman with conservative ideas about the kind of wife Mai will be. The renewed contact with her old school friend Hikaru stirs Mai's feelings of invisibility within her marriage. She is frustrated with her life and knows she will never fulfill J's obsession with the perfect wife and mother. What else is there for Mai to do but to disappear herself?

***Burn* / Melanie Saward    Fiction    2023**



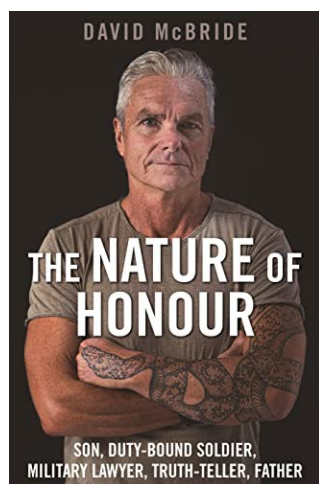
When a tragic bushfire puts two kids in hospital, Indigenous teenager Andrew knows the police will come after him first. But Andrew almost wants to be caught, because at least it might make his dad come and rescue him from suburban Brisbane and his neglectful mother.

Growing up in small-town Tasmania, Andrew struggled at home, at school, at everything. The only thing that distracted or excited him was starting little fires. Flames boosted his morale and purified his thoughts, and they were the only thing in his life he could control. Until one day things got out of hand, and Andrew was forced to leave everything behind.

Now as the police close in and Andrew runs out of people to turn to, he must decide whether he can put his faith in himself to find a way forward.



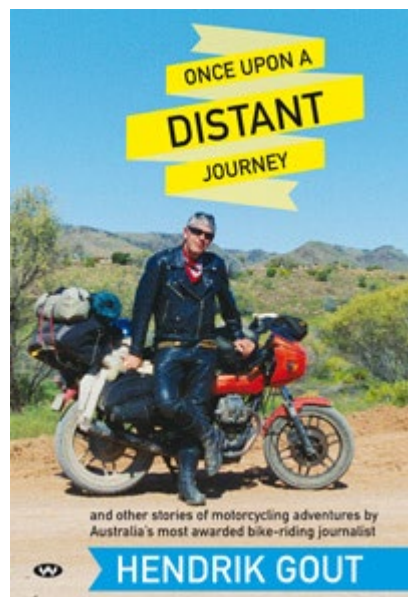
**The Nature of Honour : son, duty-bound soldier, military lawyer, truth-teller, father / David McBride    Non Fiction    2023**



Now jailed for being a whistle-blower.....

How far would you go to your duty and to help others? Son of the lauded and then infamous obstetrician Dr William McBride - who'd alerted the world to the dangers of thalidomide - David McBride felt called to be a soldier from when he was a child. David grew up in Sydney, then attended Oxford University. There, he studied law and became Oxbridge heavyweight boxing champion. Turning away from the law, David joined the British Army in the prestigious Blues and Royals regiment, serving in West Germany at the end of the Cold War and in Northern Ireland during the Troubles. He then worked in security, protecting diplomats, journalists and businesspeople across Africa in highly volatile situations in Rwanda and Zaire. Growing tired of the travel and the danger, David got a job in English reality TV. In the early 2000s he returned to Australia, and dabbled in politics, TV and the law. David then brought his two loves together - soldiering and the law - as a legal officer in the Australian Army. He served two tours of Afghanistan, in 2011 and 2013, on the frontline, confirming or denying decisions made by soldiers under international laws, until he was medically discharged with PTSD in 2017. In *The Nature of Honour*, David McBride describes his extraordinary life - lived to the absolute extreme - and the powerful motivations that have driven him.

**Once upon a distant journey / Hendrik Gout    Non Fiction    2015**



What would it be like if your bike didn't need a number plate and you didn't need a licence? Why not vote toll roads into extinction? Should we ban random breath testing and use simulators instead? Hendrik answers all these questions. These yarns take you on journeys across Australia from the outback to the sea. We feel for ourselves the relationship between man and motorbike, between humanity and nature, between people who love each other - and those met only fleetingly. Hendrik takes us down roads packed with beauty and delight and others with obstacles and surprises. His quirky sense of humour and intimate knowledge of this Wide Brown Land offers fresh ways of identifying with the country, its history, its people, geography, and uniquely Australian culture. This is a travel book with wisdom which captures the essence of Australia. Voices of ordinary and

extraordinary Australians speak to us directly with honesty and candour. Hendrik shares experiences that could be had only on a motorbike. An enormously satisfying read: the thrills, spills and joys that exist for all of us between road and sky - whether we ride or not. No finer traveller's tale has ever been told. - Homer Makes The Motorcycle Dairies read like a fairy story. - Che Guevara I wish I'd seen as much of Australia as Hendrik has. - Matthew Flinders The best motorcycling stories ever written. - Hunter S. Thompson His writings sparkle with good humour. - Harpo Marx Had Hendrik written about my journey to Cathay, I may well have become famous. - Marco Polo Hendrik understands the natural world better than any person. - Charles Darwin If he'd been caught doing half the things he confesses to in these yarns, it should be off to Devil's Island for him! - Papillon