



BLACK INC.

JANUARY–JUNE 2025
CATALOGUE

Celebrating 25 years.

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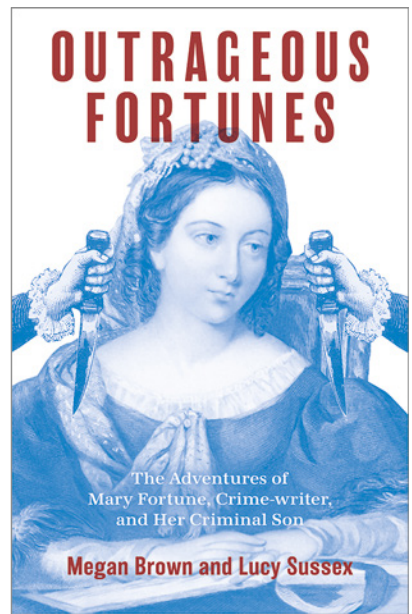
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Outrageous Fortunes

The Adventures of
Mary Fortune, Crime-writer,
and Her Criminal Son

Megan Brown and Lucy Sussex

*The gripping story of Australia's
first female crime writer and her
career-criminal son*



When Mary Fortune arrived in Melbourne with her infant son in 1855, she was determined to reinvent herself. The Victorian goldfields were just the place.

After a time selling sly-grog and a bigamous marriage to a policeman, Mary became a pioneering journalist and author. *The Detective's Album* was the first book of detective stories to be published in Australia and the first by a woman to be published anywhere in the world. Her work appeared in magazines and newspapers for over forty years – but none of her readers knew who she was. She wrote using pseudonyms, often adopting the voice of a male narrator to write about ‘unladylike’ subjects.

When Mary died in 1911, her identity was nearly lost. In *Outrageous Fortunes*, Megan Brown and Lucy Sussex retrieve Fortune’s astonishing career and discover an equally absorbing story in her illegitimate son, George. While Mary

was writing crime, George was committing it, with convictions for theft and bank robbery. In their intertwined stories, crime fiction meets true crime, and Melbourne’s literary bohemia consorts with the criminal underworld.

Megan Brown completed her PhD at the University of Wollongong, examining the work of Mary Fortune. She has contributed chapters to *The Routledge Companion to Australian Literature* and *The Unsocial Sociability of Women’s Life Writing*.

Lucy Sussex’s books include *Blockbuster! Fergus Hume and The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, which won the 2015 Victorian Community History Award, *Women Writers and Detectives in the Nineteenth Century* and *Saltwater in the Ink: Voices from the Australian Seas*. She has a PhD from the University of Wales and is an honorary fellow at La Trobe University.

FEBRUARY 2025

Biography & Memoir

9781760645052

Imprint: La Trobe

University Press

RRP: AU\$36.99.

NZ\$45.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

352pp

Melanesia

Travels in Black Oceania

Hamish McDonald

*An immersive journey
through the tumultuous past
and fascinating present of
Australia's nearest neighbours*

'We are the original people of the region ... This is a black region, it's not a white region.'

– **Ralph Regenvanu**, Ni-Vanuatu anthropologist and politician

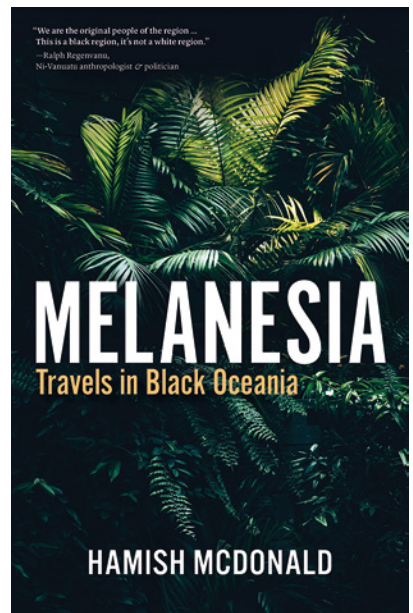
Stretching from Fiji in the east to New Guinea in the west, Melanesia is astonishingly diverse. Its islands are home to some 1200 language groups, many of them still isolated from the outside world. In Australia, this complex region tends to make the news only in times of crisis: military coups in Fiji, Kanak unrest in New Caledonia, rioting in Solomon Islands. *Melanesia* offers readers a deeper insight into the people and places behind these headlines, combining travelogue, history and astute political analysis.

By land and sea, Hamish McDonald travels from one end of Melanesia to the other. Speaking with locals from all walks of life, he uncovers the histories, values, aspirations and

tensions that have shaped their communities. He examines the impact of outsiders: the Indians recruited to work in Fiji; the white “black-birders” who kidnapped Islanders for the Australian cane fields; the Americans during World War II; the Indonesians in New Guinea. And he considers the big changes unfolding today, as shifting demographics and the growing influence of China produce a new balance of power across the region.

Vividly written, *Melanesia* is essential reading for anyone looking to understand this fascinating part of the world and its growing international significance.

Hamish McDonald is an award-winning Australian journalist. He has been correspondent and foreign editor for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, reporting from the Pacific Islands, Indonesia, Japan, Hong Kong, New Delhi and Beijing as well as around Australia.



MARCH 2025

Travel writing

9781760642037

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$36.99,

NZ\$45.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

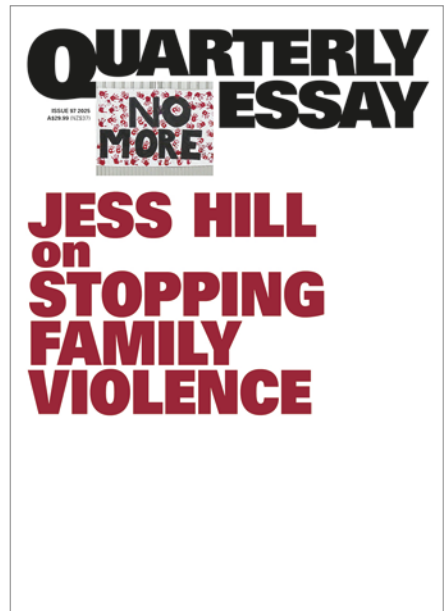
336pp

On stopping family violence

Quarterly Essay 97

Jess Hill

What will it take to stop gendered violence?



Australian governments have promised to end gendered violence in a single generation. But this bold commitment to nation building has not yet been matched by the funding, innovation and resources necessary to achieve it. If anything, since governments made that commitment two years ago, gendered violence has only escalated: men are murdering women at an increased rate, coercive control and sexual violence are becoming more complex and severe, and governments are not doing nearly enough to stop perpetrators weaponising technology and systems. Australians have taken to the streets again this year to demand that governments act.

In this urgent essay, Jess Hill investigates Australia's National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children to find out what's working and what's not – and what we can do to turn things around.

Jess Hill is an investigative journalist and the author of *See What You Made Me Do* and the Quarterly Essay *The Reckoning*. She has been a producer for ABC Radio, a journalist for *Background Briefing* and a Middle East correspondent for *The Global Mail*. Her reporting on domestic abuse has won two Walkley awards, an Amnesty International award and three Our Watch awards. *See What You Made Me Do* won the 2020 Stella Prize and the ABA Booksellers' Choice Adult Non-Fiction Book of the Year.

MARCH 2025

Domestic Abuse

—

9781760644994

Imprint: Quarterly
Essay

RRP: AU\$29.99,

NZ\$37.00

PB (234 x 167mm)

128pp

The Shortest History of France

Colin Jones

From Roman conquest to Emmanuel Macron, the Gauls to de Gaulle, trade to war, religion to migration, colonialism to slavery, Joan of Arc to Asterix ...

France is the most popular tourist destination in the world, thanks to its unsurpassed cultural and historical riches. Gothic architecture, Louis XIV opulence, revolutionary spirit, café society, haute cuisine and couture – what could be more quintessentially French?

Rarely, however, do we think of France as a melting pot, but historian Colin Jones asserts it's no less a mélange of foreign ingredients than the United States, and by some measures more. As nationalism and anti-immigration rhetoric surge in France (and elsewhere), *The Shortest History of France* presents a portrait of a nation whose politics and society have always been shaped by global forces.

Clear-eyed and avoiding traps of national exceptionalism, Jones unfolds France's first millennium of invasions and subjugation by its neighbours and iterations of the Roman Empire, to the Enlightenment, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and The Paris Agreement.

Meanwhile, its darker moments have included overseas colonisation, the Vichy regime and the Algerian War, along with persistent racism, police brutality, and civil unrest.

The Shortest History of France is a dynamic, global story enhanced with touches of cultural radiance – truly a retelling for our times.

'Colin Jones, one of the finest living scholars of early modern France, is no ordinary historian.'

—Literary Review

Colin Jones is Emeritus Professor of History at Queen Mary University of London and Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago. He is the author and editor of many works on French history, including *The Cambridge Illustrated History of France* (CUP, 1994), *The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon (1715-99)* (Penguin, 2002) and *The Fall of Robespierre: 24 Hours in Revolutionary Paris* (OUP, 2021).

THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF FRANCE

Colin Jones

APRIL 2025

History

—

9781760644482

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99,

NZ\$35.00

B PB (198 x 128mm)

240pp

Unsettled

A Journey Through
Time and Place

Kate Grenville

*What does it mean to be on land
taken from others?*

“What does it mean to be on land that was taken from other people? Now that we know how the taking was done, what do we do with that knowledge?”

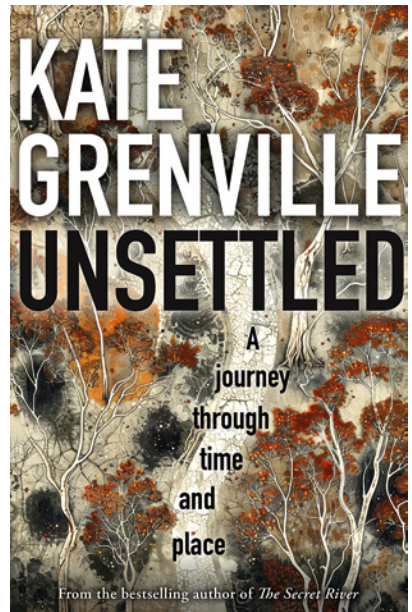
Kate Grenville is no stranger to the past. Her success and fame as a writer exploded when she published *The Secret River* in 2005, a bestseller based on the story of her convict ancestor, an early settler on the Hawkesbury River.

More than two decades on, and following the defeat of the Voice referendum, Grenville is still grappling with what it means to descend from settlers who were, as she puts it, “on the sharp edge of the moving blade that was colonisation”.

So she decides to go on a kind of pilgrimage, back through the places her family stories happened, and put

the stories and the First People back into the same frame, on the same country, to try to think about those questions. This gripping book is the result of that journey.

Kate Grenville is one of Australia’s most celebrated writers. Her international bestseller *The Secret River* was awarded local and overseas prizes, and adapted for the stage and as an acclaimed television miniseries, and is now a much-loved classic. Grenville’s other novels include *Sarah Thornhill*, *The Lieutenant*, *Lilian’s Story*, *Dark Places*, the Orange Prize winner *The Idea of Perfection*, *A Room Made of Leaves* and, most recently, *Restless Dolly Maunder*, shortlisted for the Women’s Prize for Fiction. Her works of non-fiction include *One Life: My Mother’s Story*, *The Case Against Fragrance* and *Elizabeth Macarthur’s Letters*.



APRIL 2025

Memoir

9781760645649

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$36.99,

NZ\$45.00

C PB (234 x 153mm)

272pp

The Shortest History of AI

Toby Walsh

Six ideas to understand artificial intelligence today

Since Alan Turing first posed the question, 'Can machines think?', artificial intelligence has evolved from a speculative idea to a transformative force. *The Shortest History of AI* traces this evolution, from Ada Lovelace's visionary work to IBM's groundbreaking defeat of the chess world champion and the revolutionary emergence of ChatGPT. It also explores AI's cultural journey, touching on classics such as Frankenstein, *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Revealing how many 'overnight' successes were decades in the making, this accessible and illuminating book simplifies AI into six key ideas, equipping readers to understand where we've been – and where we're headed.

'This history of AI in six simple ideas is so informative and easy to digest. Essential reading!'

—Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

'One of the world's brightest minds takes on one of the world's biggest topics ... Delicious!'

—Adam Spencer

Toby Walsh is one of the world's leading researchers in artificial intelligence. He is a professor of artificial intelligence at the University of New South Wales and chief scientist at its new AI institute, UNSW.ai. He is also the author of four previous books about AI, including *Machines Behaving Badly* and *Faking It*.

This history of AI in six simple ideas is so informative and easy to digest. Essential reading! – Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF AI



TOBY WALSH

MAY 2025

Artificial intelligence

9781760645137

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99,

NZ\$35.00

B PB (198 x 128mm)

256pp

Little World

A Novel

Josephine Rowe

*A mesmerising tale from one of
Australia's literary stars*



'He has no notion of how to care for a saint. Even a small one. Does not even believe... Still. Catholic or not. You don't turn away a saint.'

In the north-western corner of 1950s Australia, a saint arrives at the home of a retired engineer, who unwittingly becomes her custodian. A girl of indeterminate age, her body remains as it was when she died, incorruptible. And though no one knows it, she is conscious, reflecting on past and present.

Little World stretches across continents and eras – from the Canal Zone in Panama and the island of Nauru all the way to the onset of Covid in contemporary Victoria. Beautiful, rich and strange, it weaves a tale of interconnected fates as characters grapple with the unknowable, and in this way come face to face with their deepest needs.

'Josephine Rowe is a breathtakingly good writer'

—Michelle de Kretzer

Josephine Rowe is the author of three story collections and two novels, including *A Loving, Faithful Animal*, longlisted for the 2017 Miles Franklin and selected as a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. She has twice been named a *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Young Australian Novelist, and her collection *Here Until August* was shortlisted for the 2020 Stella Prize. Rowe holds fellowships from the Wallace Stegner Program at Stanford University, and the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Fellowship at the New York Public Library, among others. She currently lives in coastal Victoria.

MAY 2025

Literary Fiction

9781760645137
Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99,
NZ\$35.00
B PB (198 x 128mm)
160pp

The Shortest History of Scandinavia

Mart Kuldkepp

From the Stone Age to 'Scandimania' – a brisk, illuminating journey through 14,000 years of Nordic history

Outsiders have long viewed Scandinavia as special, starting with the ancient Greeks and their myths of *ultima Thule*, a place 'where the Sun goes to rest'. Today, we admire Scandinavia for its universal welfare, equality, peacefulness and untouched nature – not to mention its interior design, crime literature and love of all things hygge.

Yet Nordic history has had its hardships and dark periods too: pandemics, war, the expansionism of the Viking Age and the eighteenth century, alliances with Nazi Germany in World War II and a eugenics movement in the twentieth century.

In *The Shortest History of Scandinavia*, historian Mart Kuldkepp masterfully sketches the outlines of Scandinavia's rich history – from the first known peoples of the region, who followed the ice sheet north as it retreated at the end of the last Ice Age, to the Scandinavians living in nations that are among the happiest in the world today.

THE
SHORTEST
HISTORY OF



SCANDINAVIA

MART KULDKEPP

In this short but deeply insightful volume, Kuldkepp illuminates the concept of 'Nordicness' – a hard-to-define quality that has nonetheless steered the region to respond to major challenges, actively shaping their history and exerting a considerable influence on European and global history in the process.

Mart Kuldkepp is a professor and researcher of Estonian and Nordic history at University College London, where he specialises in the political history of the Baltic and Nordic regions in the twentieth century.

MAY 2025

History

—

9781760644963

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99,

NZ\$35.00

B PB (198 x 128mm)

256pp

On war and peace and the new global order

Quarterly Essay 98

Hugh White

What is Australia's place in the new global landscape?

In an era of rising danger for all, and dramatic choices for Australia, Hugh White explores how the world is changing and Australia should respond.

We confront the world's deepest and most dangerous international crisis in generations. The old global order faces direct challenge in three crucial regions, including our own. War has already engulfed Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and the risk in East Asia grows. Under Donald Trump, America's retreat from global leadership will be both swifter and perhaps more dangerously erratic.

White explains the big strategic trends driving the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and where they will lead. He examines the dynamics of US–China rivalry in Asia, the risks that it will lead to war,

and the new regional order which is already emerging. He explores Australia's responses to these crises, as reflected in the policies of Albanese's Labor and Dutton's Coalition – including AUKUS. He lays out in stark terms the hard choices ahead and explains how we can make our way in a very different world.

Hugh White is the author of *The China Choice* and *How To Defend Australia*, and the acclaimed *Quarterly Essays Power Shift, Without America and Sleepwalk to War*. He is emeritus professor of strategic studies at ANU and was the principal author of Australia's Defence White Paper 2000.



HUGH WHITE
on
**WAR AND
PEACE AND
THE NEW
GLOBAL
ORDER**

JUNE 2025

Foreign Affairs

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9781760645007
Imprint: Quarterly
Essay

RRP: AU\$29.99.

NZ\$37.99

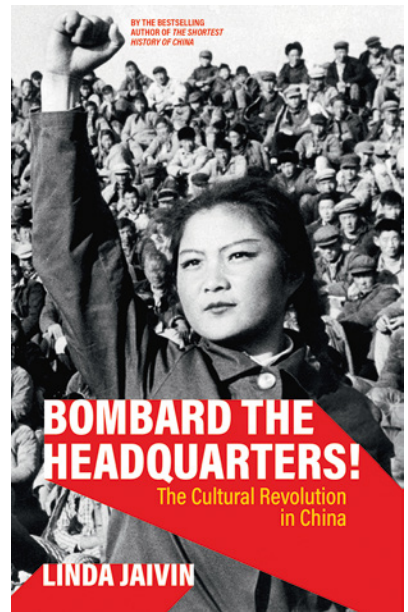
PB (234 x 167mm)
128pp

Bombard the Headquarters!

The Cultural Revolution in China

Linda Jaivin

A riveting account of a turbulent period in Chinese history.



In 1966, with the words ‘Bombard the Headquarters!’ Mao Zedong unleashed the full, violent force of a movement that he called the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. By the time he died ten years later, millions had perished, China’s cultural heritage was in ruins, its economic state was perilous, its institutions of government were damaged and its society was bitterly divided.

In this fascinating account, Linda Jaivin focuses on the eventful start of the Cultural Revolution. She sheds light on the ideological quarrels that underpinned it and profiles the personalities involved.

Discussion of the Cultural Revolution is heavily censored in the People’s Republic, and many young Chinese people know almost nothing about it. Even so, it continues to cast a shadow over life in China. Current president Xi Jinping’s assumption of a third term in 2022, his elimination of rival factions from the leadership and attempts to build

a personality cult around himself discomfit many within and outside of the Chinese Communist Party. *Bombard the Headquarters!* helps us to understand why.

Linda Jaivin has been studying Chinese politics, language and culture for more than forty years. She has been a foreign correspondent in China, and is co-editor of the *China Story Yearbook*, an associate of the Australian Centre on China in the World at the Australian National University and the author of twelve books including *The Shortest History of China*.

JUNE 2025

History

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9781760645601
Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$26.99,
NZ\$32.00
B PB (198 x 128mm)
160pp

The Death of Stalin

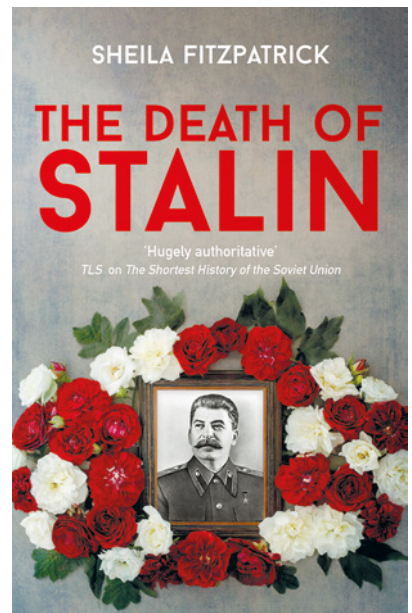
Sheila Fitzpatrick

What happened when the terrifying Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, suddenly died?

Everyone remembers the bumbling characters around Stalin's deathbed in Armando Iannucci's film *Death of Stalin*, but who knows what actually came next? Those bumbling from the Politburo, Stalin's heirs, immediately and efficiently launched into reforms across the board. Meanwhile, the West's vigilant Soviet-watchers almost completely missed the story ...

In this vivid, deeply knowledgeable short book, award-winning historian Sheila Fitzpatrick offers a new look at a crucial moment in history.

Sheila Fitzpatrick is the multi-award-winning author of *The Shortest History of the Soviet Union*, *My Father's Daughter*, *Mischka's War*, *White Russians*, *Red Peril*, *On Stalin's Team* and *The Russian Revolution*, among other titles. She is a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books* and an honorary professor in the Department of History at the University of Sydney.



JUNE 2025

History

9781760645090

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99,

NZ\$35.00

B PB (198 x 128mm)

176pp

Plug In!

The Electrification Handbook

Saul Griffith with Laura Fraser

*Everything you need to know
for your electrification journey
by the bestselling author of
The Big Switch*

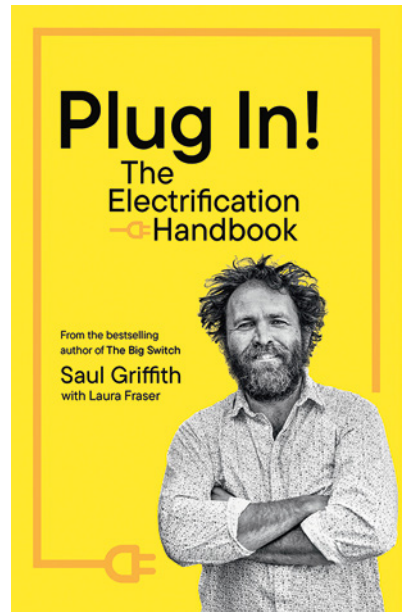
We all know that renewable energy is the future, but how can we ditch coal and gas in our own lives and homes? *Plug In!* is full of pro tips and essential information for your electrification journey.

Energy expert Saul Griffith, with help from some of his electrifying friends, covers the five big decisions:

1. Where you get your electricity
2. Hot water
3. House heat
4. Cooking
5. Transport

But wait, there's more: the new abundance agenda, all hail the tradie army, what to know about EVs – plus great graphics! Join the movement and electrify your world with *Plug In!*.

Saul Griffith is an engineer and inventor. He has been principal investigator on projects for NASA, the US National Science Foundation and US Special Operations Command. He was awarded the MacArthur 'Genius' Grant in 2007. He is the founder of Rewiring America and Rewiring Australia and author of *Electrify*, *The Big Switch* and *The Wires That Bind*.



JUNE 2025

Sustainability

—
9781760645151
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NZ\$35.00
B+ PB (210 x 135mm)
240pp

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land where Black Inc.'s offices are located.

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