

Plains The Text Classics

Since the controversy and acclaim that surrounded the publication of *Disgrace* (1999), the awarding of the Nobel Prize for literature and the publication of *Elizabeth Costello: Eight Lessons* (both in 2003), J. M. Coetzee's status has begun to steadily rise to the point where he has now outgrown the specialized domain of South African literature. Today he is recognized more simply as one of the most important writers in the English language from the late 20th and early 21st century. Coetzee's productivity and invention has not slowed with old age. *The Childhood of Jesus*, published in 2013, like *Elizabeth Costello*, was met with a puzzled reception, as critics struggled to come to terms with its odd setting and structure, its seemingly flat tone, and the strange affectless interactions of its characters. Most puzzling was the central character, David, linked by the title to an idea of Jesus. J.M. Coetzee's *The Childhood of Jesus: The Ethics of Ideas and Things* is at the forefront of an exciting process of critical engagement with this novel, which has begun to uncover its rich dialogue with philosophy, theology, mathematics, politics, and questions of meaning.

First published anonymously in 1929 because its language was considered far too frank for public circulation, *The Middle Parts of Fortune* was hailed by T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound, by Lawrence of Arabia and Ernest Hemingway as an extraordinary novel. Its author was in fact Frederic Manning, an Australian writer who fought in the Battle of the Somme in 1916, and who told his story of men at war from the perspective of an ordinary soldier. *The Middle Parts of Fortune* is now recognised as a twentieth-century classic.

This haunting novel is a classic of Australian literature. A nameless young man arrives on the

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plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail: a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself.

Winner of the Patrick White Literary Award, 1999. Introduction by Wayne Macauley. There is no book in Australian literature like *The Plains*. In the two decades since its first publication, this haunting novel has earned its status as a classic. A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail, 'a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself'. Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. He has left Victoria only a handful of times and has never been on an aeroplane. His first novel, *Tamarisk Row*, was published in 1974, and was followed by seven other works of fiction, most recently, *Barley Patch*. He has also published a collection of essays, *Invisible Yet Enduring Lilacs* (2005). In 1999, Gerald Murnane won the Patrick White Award. In 2009 he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature. Wayne Macauley is the author of three novels, *Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe* (2004), *Caravan Story* (2007) and *The Cook* (2011), and the short fiction collection *Other Stories* (2010). He lives in Melbourne. 'Murnane is quite simply one of the finest writers we have produced.' Peter Craven 'A distinguished, distinctive, unforgettable novel.' Shirley Hazzard 'Gerald Murnane is unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today and *The Plains* is a fascinating and rewarding book...The writing is extraordinarily good, spare, austere, strong, often oddly moving.' Australian 'A piece of imaginative writing so remarkably sustained that it is a subject for meditation rather than a mere reading...In the depths and surfaces of this extraordinary fable you will see your inner self

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eerily reflected again and again.' Sydney Morning Herald 'The Plains has that peculiar singularity that can make literature great.' Ed Wright, Australian, Best Books of 2015

A study of the changes initiated into the systems and culture of the plain dwellers
Used by Kevin Costner as a resource while making the film *Dances with Wolves*, this classic text is avidly sought after by anyone with an interest in Native American history and the West. A highly readable text combines with more than 1,000 illustrations to create a fascinating evocation of the life and times of an industrious, sensitive, and contented people. 32 color plates. 80 photos. 15 maps. 15 charts.

The classic story of a Norwegian pioneer family's struggles with the land and the elements of the Dakota Territory as they try to make a new life in America.

Willa Cather was the 1922 winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Her breakthrough in literature were the three novels featured here in this edition, the so-called "Great Plains Trilogy". All three novels stage in Nebraska and the surrounding Great Plains territory and deal with the life there, family challenges and romance. Included are: *O Pioneers!* *The Song of the Lark* *My Antonia*
Across the Plains, With Other Memories and Essays by Robert Louis Stevenson, first published in 1903, is a rare manuscript, the original residing in one of the great libraries of the world. This book is a reproduction of that original, which has been scanned and cleaned by state-of-the-art publishing tools for better readability and enhanced appreciation. Restoration Editors' mission is to bring long out of print manuscripts back to life. Some smudges, annotations or unclear text may still exist, due to permanent damage to the original work. We believe the literary significance of the text justifies

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offering this reproduction, allowing a new generation to appreciate it.

The interest which boys are taking in all that relates to our Indian tribes, and the greediness they manifest in devouring the sensational stories published so cheaply, filling their imaginations with stories of wild Indian life on the plains and borders, without regard to their truthfulness, cannot but be harmful; and therefore the writer, after three years' experience on the plains, feels desirous of giving youthful minds a right direction, in a true history of the red men of our forests.

Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

A classic of the Australian outback, *Such Is Life* is the farcical, tragic reminiscences of Tom Collins, philosopher and rogue. As Tom drives his team across the plains of the Riverina and northern Victoria, he gets entangled in the fate of others like Rory O'Halloran, the two Alfs (Nosey and Warrigal) and Hungry Buckley of Baroona recreating the humour, the pathos, the irony of life in the bush. His is the tough-talking, law-dodging world of the 1880s, where swagmen and bullockies slept under the stars with 'grandeur, peace and purity above; squalor, worry and profanity below'. These inspired yarns, 'fatally governed by an inveterate truthfulness', are woven into one of the greatest books of Australian literature, combining a genius for story-telling with a wry wit and a deep feeling for the harsh sun-baked land and the people who worked it.

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Joseph Furphy was born at Port Phillip, Victoria, in 1843. 'Half bushman and half bookworm', Furphy worked as a goldminer, labourer and farmer before coming to the profession that would inspire *Such Is Life*, bullock driving. In 1904 he settled in Fremantle, Western Australia, to join his children. *Such Is Life* was originally published in 1903 and was soon regarded as one of Australia's great novels. Furphy's three other books - *Poems*, *Rigby's Romance* and *The Buln Buln and the Brolga* - were all published after his death in 1912.

In *Border Districts*, a man moves from a capital city to a remote town in the border country, where he intends to spend the last years of his life. It is time, he thinks, to review the spoils of a lifetime of seeing, a lifetime of reading. Which sights, which people, which books, fictional characters, turns of phrase, and lines of verse will survive into the twilight? A dark-haired woman with a wistful expression? An ancestral house in the grasslands? The colors in translucent panes of glass, in marbles and goldfish and racing silks? Feeling an increasing urgency to put his mental landscape in order, the man sets to work cataloging this treasure, little knowing where his "report" will lead and what secrets will be brought to light.

Such is Life (1903) is a novel by Joseph Furphy. Written under his pseudonym "Tom Collins," *Such is Life* is a unique and challenging story that took decades to achieve a proper audience. Earning comparisons to the works of Melville and Twain, Furphy's novel is considered a landmark of Australian literature. "The fore part of the day was

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altogether devoid of interest or event. Overhead, the sun blazing wastefully and thanklessly through a rarefied atmosphere; underfoot the hot, black clay, thirsting for spring rain, and bare except for inedible roley-poleys, coarse tussocks, and the woody stubble of close-eaten salt-bush; between sky and earth, a solitary wayfarer, wisely lapt in philosophic torpor.” Setting out on a trek through the outback, Tom Collins begins his seemingly endless torrent of words, a journey through language to match his journey over land. Accompanied by a dog and two horses, he meets a vibrant array of characters from all nations and walks of life; from drovers to criminals, Collins can talk with them all. Described by Furphy himself as “offensively Australian,” *Such is Life* is part travelogue, part philosophy, a novel ahead of its time that remains informative for our own. With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of Joseph Furphy’s *Such is Life* is a classic work of Australian literature reimagined for modern readers.

The Plains: Text Classics Text Publishing

Wake in Fright tells the tale of John Grant's journey into an alcoholic, sexual and spiritual nightmare. It is the original and the greatest outback horror story.

Bundanyabba and its citizens will forever haunt its readers. This edition includes an introduction by Peter Temple and an afterword by David Stratton. *Wake in Fright* was made into a film in 1971, arguably the greatest film ever made in Australia. It starred Donald Pleasence, Chips Rafferty, and Jack Thompson in his first screen role. Lost for

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many years, the restored film was re-released to acclaim in 2009. Kenneth Cook was born in Sydney in 1929. *Wake in Fright* was published in 1961 to high praise in New York and London, and launched Cook's writing career. Cook wrote twenty-one books in all, along with screenplays and scripts for radio and TV. Peter Temple is one of Australia's finest writers. His novel *Truth* won the 2010 Miles Franklin Award and the Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Temple has written nine novels and has been published in more than twenty countries. David Stratton is co-presenter of *At the Movies* on ABC television and film critic for the Australian. He has also served as a President of the International Critics Jury for the Cannes and Venice Film Festivals, written three books and is currently lecturing in Film History at the University of Sydney. textclassics.com.au 'It might be fifty years since the novel appeared yet it retains its freshness, its narrative still compels, and its bleak vision still disquiets...Cook can make us feel the heat, see the endless horizon, hear the sad singing on a little train as it traverses the monotonous plain.' Peter Temple, from the Introduction 'Wake in Fright deserves its status as a modern classic. Cook's prose is masterful and the story is gripping from the first page to the last.' M. J. Hyland 'A classic novel which became a classic film. The Outback without the sentimental bulldust. Australia without the sugar coating.' Robert Drewe 'Wake in Fright is a classic of the ugly side of Menzies' Australia, its brutality, its drunkenness, its anxiety to crush all sensibility. All of this is harrowingly re-recorded - the destruction of a young soul fresh to Australia - in Kenneth

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Cook's remarkable novel.' Thomas Keneally 'A true dark classic of Australian literature.' J. M. Coetzee '...a kind of outback Lord of the Flies...Written entirely from Grant's point of view, the prose is at first straightforward, the landscape and its people evoked simply and vividly. But later, as Grant descends into his own personal hell and finally to the depths of despair, the writing takes on the quality of a delirious dream. The concluding narrative twists will rock both Grant (and the reader) back on their heels.' Crime Time UK 'A chilling outback horror and an Australian classic.' Guardian, Top 10 tales from the frontier

A masterwork from Australia's greatest cult literary figure, published for the first time as the author originally intended

Set in Wyoming in pioneer days. The hero, never named, provokes the enmity of a local bad man named Trampas. In a poker game, Trampas accuses the Virginian of cheating and impugns his ancestry. Instantly the Virginian's pistol is drawn and put on the table before him, and he utters the catch phrase "When you call me that, smile." Trampas backs down. Later the Virginian rescues a New England schoolmistress from a stage coach that has been marooned in high water by a drunken driver. Eventually they get married. The novel's climax is a pistol duel between Trampas and the Virginian in which Trampas is vanquished, the scene constituting the first known walkdown in American literature. The author had first gone to Wyoming for health reasons on the advice of Theodore Roosevelt. Wister dedicated the novel to Roosevelt and many of the

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Virginian's traits and ideals resemble Roosevelt's. According to Wister, writing in the 16th edition of the book, the hero is a combination of several men he had known in Wyoming. It became the prototype for all cowboy heroes.

First published in 1974, and out of print for almost twenty years, *Tamarisk Row* is Gerald Murnane's first novel, and in many respects his masterpiece, an unsparing evocation of a Catholic childhood in a Victorian country town in the late 1940s.

The Virginian is the quiet, noble foreman of a Wyoming cattle ranch in the 1870s. More comfortable keeping company with his trusted horse than with other people, he nevertheless falls for pretty schoolteacher Molly Wood, who helps him develop an appreciation for Shakespeare, Keats, and the finer things. But when a rival suitor challenges his honor, the Virginian struggles to make his beloved Molly understand the harsh justice of the West.

Tin River is a townlet of terminal attractiveness. *Tin River* is a state of mind.

Researching in the archives Belle discovers the long-dead Gaden Lockyer, a colonial pioneer in Jericho Flats, and soon becomes obsessed. Belle's quest for Lockyer is her way of coming to terms with the past—her mother, 'a drummer in her own all-women's group'; her absent American father; and her ineffectual husband, Seb. In *Reaching Tin River*, Thea Astley's satire is at its sharpest and most entertaining. Thea Astley was born in Brisbane in 1925. Her first novel, *Girl with a Monkey*, was published in 1958 and her third, *The Well Dressed Explorer* (1962), won the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

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Many notable books followed, among them the groundbreaking *A Kindness Cup* (1974), which addressed frontier massacres of Indigenous Australians, and *It's Raining in Mango* (1987). Her last novel was *Drylands* (1999), her fourth Miles Franklin winner. Her fiction is distinguished by vivid imagery and metaphor; a complex, ironic style; and a desire to highlight oppression and social injustice. One of the most distinctive and influential Australian novelists of the twentieth century, Astley died in 2004. 'How lucidly Ms. Astley evokes for us Australia's rough pioneer history and Belle's love for it...You will like this journey, I promise, and when it is over you will wish it weren't, and you will feel cross and want from Ms. Astley much, much more.' *New York Times* 'Dazzling imagery on every page...Beautifully written.' *Publishers Weekly* 'Intelligent, fresh, and new.' *Kirkus Reviews*

Ruth Park's Miles Franklin-winning novel brilliantly evokes Australia in the midst of the Great Depression. Written with warmth and affection, *Swords and Crowns and Rings* is a powerful story about human nature and the strength of an unlikely love.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author John McPhee continues his *Annals of the Former World* series about the geology of North America along the fortieth parallel with *Rising from the Plains*. This third volume presents another exciting geological excursion with an engaging account of life—past and present—in the high plains of Wyoming. Sometimes it is said of geologists that they reflect in their professional styles the sort of country in which they grew up. Nowhere could that be more true than in the life of a geologist born

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in the center of Wyoming and raised on an isolated ranch. This is the story of that ranch, soon after the turn of the twentieth century, and of David Love, the geologist who grew up there, at home with the composition of the high country in the way that someone growing up in a coastal harbor would be at home with the vagaries of the sea. *A Woman of the Future*, first published in 1979, was David Ireland's best-selling sixth novel and his third to win the Miles Franklin Award. An imaginative tour de force, it is the story of the young life of Anthea Hunt, from conception to sexual awakening. It is controversial and brilliant, and unlike anything else in Australian literature. Now published as a Text Classic, it features a new introduction from Kate Jennings. David Ireland started out writing poetry and drama but then turned to fiction. His first novel, *The Chantic Bird*, was published in 1968. In the next decade he published five further novels, three of which won the Miles Franklin Award: *The Unknown Industrial Prisoner*, *The Glass Canoe* and *A Woman of the Future*. David Ireland was made a member of the Order of Australia in 1981. In 1985 he received the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal for his novel *Archimedes and the Seagull*. Kate Jennings is a poet, essayist, short-story writer and novelist. Her novels, *Snake* and *Moral Hazard*, were New York Times Notable Books of the Year. She has won the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal and the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction. Born in rural New South Wales, she has lived in New York since 1979. Her most recent book is *Trouble: Evolution of a Radical*. www.textclassics.com.au 'Immense originality, wit and gritty

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wisdom...David Ireland has reached the top.' Patrick White 'Superlative powers of observation...a very rewarding read.' Manning Clark 'A Woman of the Future is not just a novel, it is a phenomenon.' Douglas Stewart 'Remarkable...an extraordinary memoir of adolescence.' New York Times 'A brilliant, often mind-blowing excursion...the sexual scenes here are as deliberately shocking as any recent fiction.' Saturday Review

This will be a book for the world's last reader, she decided, chewing pen-end over an open exercise book. In the dying town of Drylands, Janet Deakin sells papers to lonely locals. At night, in her flat above the newsagency, she attempts to write a novel for a world in which no one reads—'full of people, she envisaged, glaring at a screen that glared glassily back.' Drylands is the story of the townsfolk's harsh, violent lives.

Trenchant and brilliant, Thea Astley's final novel is a dark portrait of outback Australia in decline. Thea Astley was born in Brisbane in 1925. Her first novel, *Girl with a Monkey*, was published in 1958 and her third, *The Well Dressed Explorer* (1962), won the Miles Franklin Literary Award. Many notable books followed, among them the groundbreaking *A Kindness Cup* (1974), which addressed frontier massacres of Indigenous Australians, and *It's Raining in Mango* (1987). Her last novel was *Drylands* (1999), her fourth Miles Franklin winner. Her fiction is distinguished by vivid imagery and metaphor; a complex, ironic style; and a desire to highlight oppression and social injustice. One of the most distinctive and influential Australian novelists of the twentieth century, Astley died in 2004. 'It is impossible to put this book down. It seethes with

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energy and passion.' Herald Sun 'Wonderful.' Australian
In Five Classics of Fengshui Michael Paton traces the theoretical development of this form of spiritual geography through full translations of major texts: the Burial Classic of Qing Wu, Book of Burial, Yellow Emperor's Classic of House Siting, Twenty Four Difficult Problems, and Water Dragon Classic.

Adrian Sherd is a teenage boy in Melbourne of the 1950s, the last years before television and the family car changed suburbia forever. Earnest and isolated, tormented by his hormones and his religious devotion, Adrian dreams of elaborate orgies with American film stars, and of marrying his sweetheart and fathering eleven children by her. He even dreams a history of the world as a chronicle of sexual frustration. A Lifetime on Clouds is funny, honest and sweetly told: a less ribald, Catholic Australian Portnoy's Complaint. Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. His first novel, Tamarisk Row, was published in 1974. It was followed by A Lifetime on Clouds, The Plains and five other works of fiction, the most recent of which is A History of Books. In 1999 he won the Patrick White Award. Ten years later he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature. 'Unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today.' Australian 'A Lifetime on Clouds delighted me: I was particularly admiring of the author's unflinching ability to say just enough and no more.' Les Murray, Sydney Morning Herald 'Murnane draws out a great deal of comedy from the distance between what his hero does and what he dreams.' Guardian 'If you only ever read one Gerald Murnane

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novel in your life, I urge you to make it this one.' Andy Griffiths, in his introduction Sharply observed, bitter and humorous, *The Long Prospect* is a story of life in an Australian industrial town. Growing up neglected in a seedy boarding house, Emily Lawrence befriends Max, a middle-aged scientist who encourages her to pursue her intellectual interests. Innocent Emily will face scandal, suburban snobbery and psychological torment.

Gerald Murnane: *Another World in This One* coincides with a renewed interest in his work. It includes an important new essay by Murnane himself, alongside chapters by established and emerging literary critics from Australia and internationally. Together they provide a stimulating reassessment of Murnane's diverse body of work.

Brilliant, witty, scathing, *The Australian Ugliness* is the classic postwar account of Australian society, how we live in the environments we create, and the consequences of our failure to think about how we live.

Ken Robbins tells in words and historical photographs the amazing yet tragic story of a magnificent and truly American creature: the buffalo. It is the story of numbers so vast, it might take days for one herd of buffalo to pass a particular point on the prairie. It is the story of a harmonious, balanced relationship with Native Americans who revered and even worshiped the huge animals that gave them almost everything they needed to survive. And it is the sad story of how, in as little as twenty-five years, reckless and wasteful slaughter at the hands of newly-arrived settlers drove the buffalo to the very

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brink of extinction. But luckily the story has a somewhat happy ending. The destruction was halted and the number of buffalo has risen again, although the days when a stampeding herd made a sound like thunder on the plains are probably gone forever. Stories from a mind-bending Australian master, “a genius on the level of Beckett” (Teju Cole) Never before available to readers in this hemisphere, these stories—originally published from 1985 to 2012—offer an irresistible compendium of the work of one of contemporary fiction’s greatest magicians. While the Australian master Gerald Murnane’s reputation rests largely on his longer works of fiction, his short stories stand among the most brilliant and idiosyncratic uses of the form since Borges, Beckett, and Nabokov. Brutal, comic, obscene, and crystalline, *Stream System* runs from the haunting “Land Deal,” which imagines the colonization of Australia and the ultimate vengeance of its indigenous people as a series of nested dreams; to “Finger Web,” which tells a quietly terrifying, fractal tale of the scars of war and the roots of misogyny; to “The Interior of Gaaldine,” which finds its anxious protagonist stranded beyond the limits of fiction itself. No one else writes like Murnane, and there are few other authors alive still capable of changing how—and why—we read.

With Giramondo’s publication of *Barley Patch* and *A History of Books*, Gerald Murnane has attracted renewed interest as a brilliant writer and Nobel Prize contender. First published 25 years ago, *Inland* is one of Murnane’s most complex and rewarding works, a study of guilt, longing and regret rich in metaphysical insights. From his native

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district in the Melbourne suburb of Pascoe Vale, Murnane's narrator imagines another world, in Szolnok county Hungary, and within that world another, in Ideal South Dakota, each haunted by the betrayal of a young girl, each driven by the possibility of restitution. Murnane's mastery over language and his pressing towards the edges of what fiction can accomplish make this book a landmark in Australian literature.

With more than 7 million books in print, RT Book Reviews Career Achievement Award winning and USA Today Bestselling author Rosanne Bittner pens a historical Western romance filled with dangerous cowboys, capable heroines, and an epic love story that sweeps across the Old West. IN A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY Sunny Landers wants a big life-as big and free as the untamed land that stretches before her. Land she will help her father conquer to achieve his dream of a transcontinental railroad. She won't let a cold, creaky wagon, murderous bandits or stampeding buffalo stand in her way. She wants it all-including Colt Travis. ALL THE ODDS WERE AGAINST THEM Like the land of his birth, half Cherokee Colt Travis is wild, hard, and dangerous. He is a drifter, a wilderness scout with no land and no prospects hired by the Landers family to guide their wagon train. He knows Sunny is out of his league and her father would never approve, but beneath the endless starlit sky, anything seems possible... Praise for Bestselling Historical Western Romances by Rosanne Bittner: "A hero to set feminine hearts aflutter...western romance readers will thoroughly enjoy this." -Library Journal "Fans of such authors as Jodi Thomas and Georgina Gentry will enjoy Bittner's thrilling

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tale of crime and love in the Old West."-Booklist Online "One of the most powerful voices in western romance."-RT Book Reviews

This eBook version of *The Virginian : A Horseman of the Plains* presents the full text of this literary classic.

First published in 1822, this is the extraordinary story of John Nicol, a sailor who circled the globe twice, fought Napoleon's navy, was in Hawaii just after Cook's death, and went to Port Jackson on a Second Fleet vessel with its cargo of female convicts.

Superbly edited and introduced by Tim Flannery, this is a classic tale by a brilliant observer of the savagery and tenderness of life when the modern age was in its infancy. John Nicol was born in Scotland in 1755, and first went to sea in 1776. He served in the American War of Independence, and later sailed to Greenland, the West Indies, the South Pacific, China and the colony of New South Wales. He lived with the convict Sarah Whitlam in Port Jackson in 1790 after their son was born on the voyage to Australia. Later he served in the French Revolutionary Wars in Egypt and the Mediterranean, until he settled in Scotland in 1801. He died in 1825. Tim Flannery is a bestselling writer, scientist and explorer. He has published over a dozen books, most recently *Among the Islands: Adventures in the Pacific*. In 2011 he was appointed chief commissioner of the Australian Climate Commission. textpublishing.com.au 'The unaffected remembrances of an 18th-century mariner, eerie in their ability to make readers feel contiguous with the events...This is a remarkable memoir...Nicol had an

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eye and ear for the background music of the everyday, of language...an immediacy rings in the account, pulling you in...[a] lucky find for treasure hunters who discovered a gem worth far more than its weight in gold doubloons.' Kirkus Reviews 'A rare treat...fresh, unstudied and spectacularly observant, it ranks with many of the better known classics...The result is a charming account of the world seen through the eyes of a kindly and thoughtful man with a great capacity for empathy, a tremendous eye for detail and, apparently, a spectacular memory...The world he travelled was so terribly interesting, foreign and strange and yet in some ways familiar, poised on the brink of modernity, as we are now poised on the brink of something else...And the stroke of genius was to secure Tim Flannery, author of the best-selling book on Australia's ecological history, *The Future Eaters*, as the series editor. Rapidly becoming Australia's answer to Stephen Jay Gould, Flannery is a scientist who writes like a historian and has a historian's passion for these early texts...Flannery brings a contagious enthusiasm to everything he does.' Sunday Age 'This remarkable little book defies the normal course of historical writing and gives us a uniquely personal view of the world as seen from the focsle in the late 18th century...Tim Flannery is to be congratulated for having the eye to breathe life back into a person whose story engages readers today as much as when it was first written.' Sydney Morning Herald 'It's a knockout...Nicol is a sunny, charming, highly observant guide and a first-rate storyteller.' Sun Herald 'It is tales such as these that suddenly transport you back in time...For anyone with a passing interest in history,

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or those who just like a good story, you can't go past Nicol. It's going to be one of those books that everyone reads once - and then buys five copies to give to friends.' Herald Sun 'Sometimes a voice comes out of nowhere and - like the wedding guest - you are stopped in your tracks by the tale of an ancient mariner...Terrific.' The Times
The Odd Angry Shot is the seminal account of Australian soldiers in the Vietnam War. Brief and bracing, tragic yet darkly funny, it portrays a close-knit group of knockabout SAS fighters: their mateship, homesickness and fears; their practical jokes, drinking and fighting.

Set in Australia and England in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, The Cardboard Crown presents an unforgettable portrait of an upper middle-class family who love both countries but are not quite at home in either. At the centre of this scintillating and immensely readable novel is Alice Verso, whose unexpected marriage to Austin Langton not only brings financial stability to the Langtons but founds an Anglo-Australian dynasty. But when her grandson finds her diaries and begins to uncover her story he chances on an intricate web of deception and reveals the complex fate of his family over three generations. This remarkable novel, first published to a chorus of acclaim in 1952, is one of the lost classics of Australian literature. Martin Boyd is a deeply humane novelist, a writer of family sagas without peer. This edition features an introduction by one of Australia's best-known and award-winning biographers, Brenda Niall. Martin Boyd was born in Switzerland in 1893. He was brought to Australia when

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he was six months old and where his family of painters, sculptors, architects and writers was to make an unparalleled contribution to Australian cultural life. Boyd divided his time between Australia and England but in 1957 moved to Rome where he died in 1972. The Cardboard Crown is the first novel in his Langton quartet, the work for which he is best known and which is loosely based on his family. Brenda Niall is one of Australia's foremost biographers. She is the author of four award winning biographies, including her acclaimed accounts of the Boyd family. In 2004 she was awarded the Order of Australia for 'services to Australian literature, as an academic, biographer and literary critic'. She frequently reviews for the Age, Sydney Morning Herald and Australian Book Review. textclassics.com.au 'A spirited and highly accomplished novel, done with the most engaging liveliness and intelligence.' Times 'A rueful, cheerfully savage novel...lit with unearthly fires and enchantments.' New York Times 'The grace and wit of his best writing, the subtlety with which he captures social nuances, and his placing of intimate family dramas against a broader social background, make Boyd quite individual as an Australian novelist.' Australian
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