

A home like ours by Fiona Lowe



I listened to another wonderful book by Fiona Lowe read by Rebecca Macauley. This book is set in country Victoria. It could have been set in our local community and I could easily relate to all issues in the story and could see them in our community.

Reviewed by
Vicki

There are three main characters, all very different. A community volunteer, a privileged wife, mother and business owner and a teenage mum.

All three characters must overcome their own issues regarding racism, single teen mothers, small business ownership, illness, dishonesty and political corruption. The story reflects how they learn and grow in their thoughts, attitudes and understanding of life.

The contemporary issues in this book, makes you think about your attitude and how you might respond to some of the issues raised.

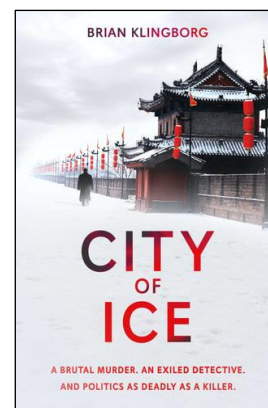
This is an interesting read, raising contemporary issues. I found it very hard to press pause on the book!

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City of ice

by Brian Klingborg



Reviewed by
Pat

In a remote Chinese town - where the theft of a few chickens counts as a major crime - a young woman is found brutally murdered, with her heart, lungs and liver removed. Inspector Lu Fei, a weary cop who fled the city, suddenly finds himself under the intense scrutiny of the ruling party in Beijing.

Determined to find her killer, Lu Fei must navigate a society where politics can be deadly, corruption is rife, and the powerful are untouchable.

As evidence connects the case to a string of unsolved murders, Lu must decide what he will risk in search of justice.

The thing I found most fascinating was the setting and the culture. I don't often read book that are set in modern-day China and this has left me hungry for more.

This is a gripping crime story, with a great plot and a very likeable protagonist!

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Digging up dirt by Pamela Hart



Digging up Dirt is the first in the new Poppy McGowan mystery series. Poppy is renovating her small Annandale house in Sydney, when Boris, her builder, finds bones under the floorboards. So begins a funny, bright and fast-paced mystery full of diverse characters and sub-plots.

Reviewed by
Donna

Poppy works in the ABC Children's television department (hooray) and enlists the help of an archaeologist friend to investigate the bones. Are they human or are they the bones of a rare breed of fat-tailed sheet and what will this mean to her renovation? And then another body turns up.

There's a bit of romance, with the very hunky archaeologist and a bit of political wheeling and dealing with the right-wing Australian Family Party and its affiliated Radiant Joy Church.

There's also Poppy's large and noisy Catholic family consuming endless cups of tea (hooray again) and some very dodgy suspects.

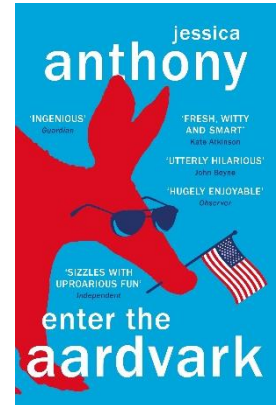
I loved Digging up Dirt because it was instantly relatable. From the Sydney locations, the tradesmen, local council and the slightly off happy-clappies and the very Aussie humour. This was a hard one to put down.

**A perfect light read, great characters
and plenty of action with the promise of
more to come!**

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Enter the aardvark by Jessica Anthony



I've thoroughly enjoyed "Enter the aardvark".
It's an American political novel, which doesn't detract at all.

Well worth reserving it at your library.

Reviewed by
Alex

#queerreads #politicalfiction #queerfiction #queerbooks
#gaymen #rainbowreads

It's witty, unpredictable and creative.
Loved it!

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Kingdom of the wicked by Kerri Maniscalco



Set in late 1800s Sicily. 18-year-old Emilia finds her twin, dead in a monastery leading her to discover the dark magic that her grandmother had begged her not to go near.

Reviewed by
Zoe

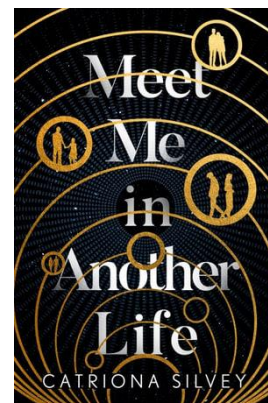
This book brings a gloomy atmosphere to a love story that will leave you begging for the main characters to finally get together and will have you waiting for the next book to be released.

A great book for young adults looking for a murder mystery with a paranormal setting!

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Meet me in another life by Catriona Silvey



In this debut novel from Catriona Silvey, Santi and Thora start out as complete strangers, crossing paths in a foreign city where their fates mysteriously intertwine while they are looking up at the stars.

Reviewed by
Pat

Throughout this novel, the two live numerous lives, always with the same name and always reuniting in Cologne, Germany. However, despite constantly meeting one another their lives are never quite the same. As they meet, whether it be as lovers, as a teacher and a student, enemies, colleagues, or even siblings.

This novel raises so many questions. How did they stop the clock? Why do they constantly need to meet? What do they teach each other in each of their individual lives?

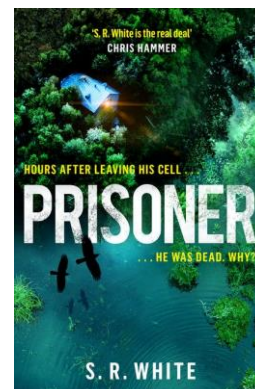
I really wasn't sure where it was – was it like Groundhog Day where they needed to relive a life until they had changed their outlook, or righted some wrongs? Did they need to love each other no matter what?

This is a unique read, with an unexpected ending! I don't want to give away any clues!

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Prisoner by S.R. White



24 HOURS AFTER LEAVING HIS CELL HE WAS DEAD. CAN SHE FIND OUT WHY?

Reviewed by
Pat

When a man is found savagely 'crucified' amidst a murky swamp in northern Australia, detective Dana Russo and her team are called to a shocking scene.

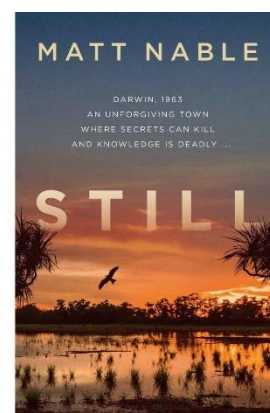
The victim is a convicted rapist, just released from prison, who years earlier committed an atrocious crime, metres from where he was killed.

Who murdered him - and why? With several potential leads, the investigation quickly becomes more complex, and sinister, than anyone imagined. And Dana realises she'll have to confront her own troubled past to understand the true motives of the killer...

A riveting, atmospheric and unforgettably original new novel. Perfect for fans of Jane Harper's *THE DRY* and Chris Hammer's *SCRUBLANDS*!

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Still

by Matt Nabble

Darwin 1963. It's hot and steamy, the dirt is red, the men are tough and the women silent. Still is a powerful, sometimes confronting, crime thriller about courage and the fight for truth.

Reviewed by
Donna

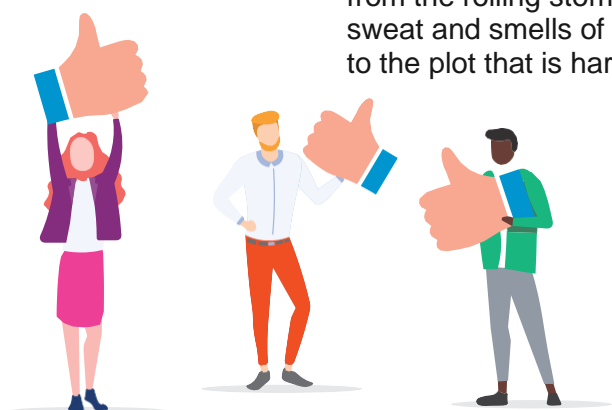
When Senior Constable Ned Potter finds the brutally beaten body of Ernie Clay. He knows that there's a whole lot of trouble on the way. As more bodies surface, Ned's investigation is constantly thwarted by his senior officers and political alliances.

Charlotte Clark is trapped in a life and marriage that offers little hope. A wrong turn leads her to another savagely beaten man – this one still alive, and desperately scared.

She hides him and treats his wounds, keeping him safe and hidden. This man, Michael Roberts, is the key for Ned and Charlotte to unlock the secrets and reveal the layers of abuse, corruption and suppression.

Always present, is the resilience of the indigenous people.

Matt Nabble has drawn his characters set against a very real sense of place. The frontier landscape comes alive, from the rolling storm clouds, the lurking crocs, to the sweat and smells of the land, there is a rugged edginess to the plot that is hard to ignore.



Still, also compares the political climate in Darwin to the events in America – the assassination of Kennedy and the black civil rights movement.

The blurb on the back of the book says "If you loved The Dry and Scrublands, you will love Still". Couldn't have said it better myself.

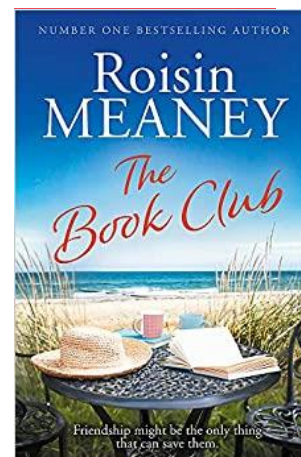
(Matt Nable also starred in the feature film The Dry).

This is a great read, perfect for fans of gritty Australian rural crime!

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The Book Club by Roisin Meaney



Reviewed by
Pat

A tragic accident leaves the tight-knit book club in the small seaside town of Fairweather reeling. Then stranger, Tom McLysaght arrives in the community, and the members of the club find their lives changing in ways they never could have imagined.

None of them realise that Tom is hiding a secret. On the surface, his move to Fairweather was to escape his highflying life in London and to put some much-needed distance between him and his ex-fiancée.

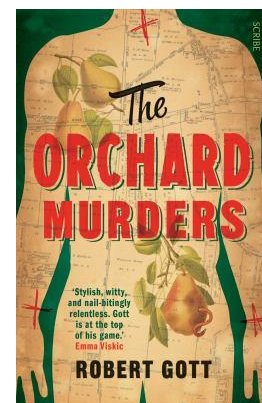
As the months pass with book club gatherings, secrets are shared and hurts begin to heal. New friendships might be the last thing on their minds, but the members of the book club are about to discover that opening themselves up to other people might be the only thing that will help them all to heal.

I really enjoyed this book it had some wonderful characters and it's full of friendship and kindness. Just the thing in these dark times!

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The Orchard Murders by Robert Gott



Reviewed by
Skye

The Orchard Murders is the fourth book in Robert Gott's Holiday Murders series. This is a series I've really enjoyed, and I think is a little under-recognised by readers. Happily, the first three books are summarised at the start of this novel to give the reader some background on the characters.

Inspector Titus Lambert is once again faced with solving a complex and puzzling case. Four people are dead in Nunawading with potential links to a long-forgotten cult. One man attracts suspicion immediately, but what was his part in this terrible crime?

With resources stretched, Lambert draws on the skills of his former colleagues Helen Lord and Joe Sable to investigate.

This is an engaging read, with interesting and complex characters. Fans of Australian crime fiction should really enjoy this book and the Holiday Murders series.

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