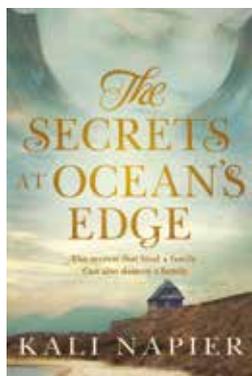




4 NEW AUSTRALIAN BOOKS TO WATCH OUT FOR THIS MONTH



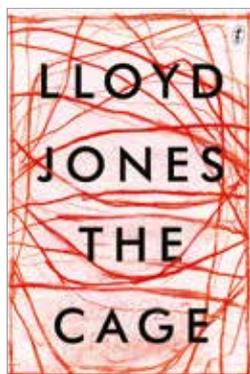
The Secrets at the Ocean's Edge

Kali Napier
Hachette

It's 1932. Ernie and Lily Hass, and their daughter, Girlie, have lost almost everything in the Depression; all they have keeping their small family together are their secrets.

Abandoning their failing wheat farm and small town gossip, they make a new start on the west coast of Australia where they begin to build a summer guesthouse. But forming new alliances with the locals isn't easy.

Into the Hasses' new life wanders Lily's shell shocked brother, Tommy, after three harrowing years on the road following his incarceration. Tommy is seeking answers that will cut to the heart of who Ernie, Lily and Girlie really are.



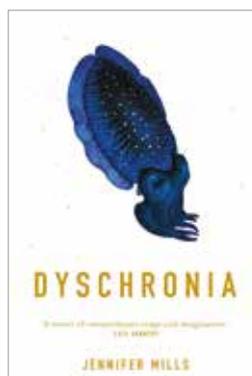
The Cage

Lloyd Jones
Text

Two mysterious strangers appear at a hotel in a small country town. Where have they come from? Who are they? What catastrophe are they fleeing from? The townspeople want answers, but the strangers are unable to speak of their trauma. And before long, wary hospitality shifts to suspicion and fear, and the care of the men slides into appalling cruelty.

Lloyd Jones's fable-like novel *The Cage* is a profound and unsettling novel about humanity and dignity and the ease with which we're able to justify brutality.

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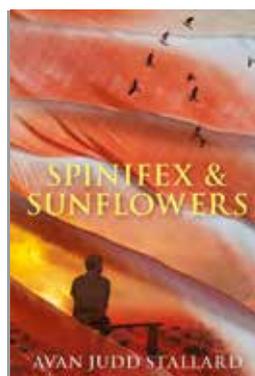
Dyschronia

Jennifer Mills
Pan Macmillan

One morning, the residents of a coastal small town wake to discover the sea has disappeared, leaving them 'landlocked'. But the narrator has been seeing visions of this cataclysm for years. Is she a prophet? Does she have a

disorder that skews her perception of time (the dyschronia of the title). Or is she just a liar?

Jennifer Mills's novel takes contemporary issues of resource depletion and climate change and welds them to one young woman's migraine inducing nightmares. Her narrator's prevision anticipates a world in which entire communities are left to fend for themselves – economically drained, socially fractured, trapped between a hardscrabble past and an uncertain future.



Spinifex and Sunflowers

Avan Judd Stallard
Fremantle Press

Nick Harris has been drifting for years – until the day he finds himself amid red dirt and razor wire, a prison guard for refugees in a detention centre. Nick is no crusader and no bleeding heart. He's just a man in debt who needs a job.

Time passes slowly behind the wire, no matter who you are. To distract themselves, the asylum seekers tell Nick about their lives and cultures, and the families they have left behind. They steal from him with good humour, and swear at him with bad.

Nick breaks all the rules: slacking off when he guards the cordial machine, swimming with crocodiles, brawling with locals, romancing workmates. And then there is the cardinal sin – becoming friends with the detainees.