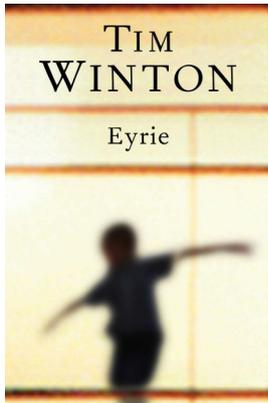


Book News

From The Lane Bookshop

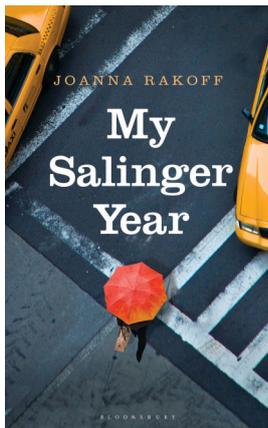
Winter 2014

Eyrie by Tim Winton \$22.99



Now in paperback, Tim Winton's *Eyrie* is a beautiful and evocative portrayal of modern Australian life. Set mostly in Fremantle, *Eyrie* tells the story of Tom Keely, a former environmental campaigner who has blown his career in a very public meltdown and lost both his marriage and his house. Now holed up in a high rise apartment in the port city, Keely is drinking, self medicating, and only just hanging on to his sanity. One day in the lift he meets Gemma and her grandson Kai. Gemma turns out to be an old neighbour of Tom's, and she and Kai are living a somewhat precarious existence. Before he knows it, Tom's concern for her and the young boy draws him out of his self imposed isolation. This is a book about a man trying to do the right thing, trying to be a good person in the face of difficulty.

My Salinger Year by Joanna Rakoff \$27.99



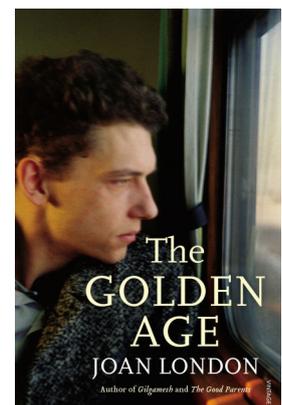
In 1996, Joanna Rakoff returned home to the United States and got her first 'proper' job, as a PA in a New York literary agency. While many of her friends and contemporaries were leaping into the internet age, the Agency was a hushed, book lined, computer-free zone where pedal-operated dictaphones and enormous old typewriters ruled. Under strict instructions to always put 'Jerry' straight through if he called, to never engage in chit chat with 'Jerry' nor ever, EVER give anyone his details, it takes her a while to realize that 'Jerry' is the iconic J.D. Salinger. The Agency's refusal to move with the times might be causing it to bleed clients left, right and centre but it does still represent one of America's most beloved writers. As it turns out, one of Joanna's jobs is to reply to the constant stream of Salinger fan mail, the author himself being reclusive and not accepting any. A form letter has always been used, thanking the writer for their interest and explaining that Mr Salinger accepts no mail. This is OK for a while, but over

time, as she reads the often heartfelt letters, Joanna feels some of them deserve more. So she decides to start writing the replies herself. In less than 300 pages, Rakoff beautifully conveys the essence of how it feels to be a young woman, harbouring modest but secret literary ambitions herself, out in the real world for the first time. Just making ends meet is a struggle, her personal life is a little flaky, and every day at work is a revelation. This book is a joy to read.

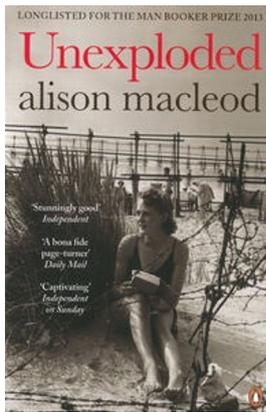


Author Event

Joan London will talk about her writing and introduce her new book *The Golden Age* at Christ Church Grammar School on Wednesday, August 13 at 7.30pm in the Senior Common Room. Tickets (\$) are available from The Lane Bookshop.



Unexploded by Alison MacLeod \$22.99



Set in Brighton in 1940, *Unexploded* is the story of the Beaumont family: Geoffrey, Evelyn and their son Philip. Geoffrey, a banker, is appointed as the superintendent of the local internment camp, a job he neither likes nor is very good at. Evelyn, increasingly oppressed by the fear of invasion, begins to visit the camp and read to the prisoners. Their marriage has been a good one, but it begins to crack under the pressure of the situation. Both commit acts they would not have thought possible. Young Philip meanwhile, is both fearful of, and a touch excited by the prospect of invasion, which he really only partly comprehends. As the year wears on, the once contented little family begins to implode. A German invasion was indeed thought to be imminent in 1940 and Brighton a likely location. This is a wonderfully atmospheric novel about the effects of fear and stress on a marriage.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Chemo by Luke Ryan \$29.99



Former Perth boy Luke Ryan has experienced a couple of things in his 29 years that most of us will never have a taste of in a lifetime. Firstly, he's had cancer, not just once, but twice. And secondly, he's been a stand-up comedian, performing his 'Luke's Got Cancer' routine to many audiences in Australia. At age 11, Luke was diagnosed with an osteogenic sarcoma. Following a grueling year of aggressive treatment, he was finally declared cancer free, though one leg was now shorter than the other thanks to a complete knee replacement. 11 years later, having moved to Melbourne and completed University, he was diagnosed with another, different sarcoma, this time in his lung. The odds of someone developing 2 different sarcomas at 2 times in their life and surviving both are extremely low, but Luke did just that, and part of his strategy was to laugh in the face of the monster and refuse to allow it to define him. *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Chemo* is indeed very very funny. It's also very informative, giving

a clear, uncomplicated overview of the medical details. Though proudly unsentimental, it packs quite an emotional punch, particularly when focusing on family. Luke Ryan is a former Lane Bookshop staff member, so we've already told him we're claiming some credit for this book!

Summer House with Swimming Pool by Herman Koch \$29.99



When a medical procedure goes horribly wrong and famous actor Ralph Meier winds up dead, Dr Marc Schlosser needs to come up with some answers. Personally, he's not exactly upset that Ralph is gone, but as a high profile doctor to the stars, Marc can't hide the truth forever. It all started the previous summer. Marc, his wife, and their two beautiful teenage daughters agreed to spend a week at the Meier's extravagant summer home on the Mediterranean. Joined by Ralph and his striking wife Judith, her mother, and others, the large group settles in for days of sunshine, wine tasting, and trips to the beach. But when a violent incident disrupts the idyll, darker motivations are revealed, and suddenly no one can be trusted. As the ultimate holiday soon turns into a nightmare, the circumstances surrounding Ralph's (later) death begin to reveal the reality behind that summer's tragedy. This is not a nice book, it is however, riveting.