

# Book News

## From The Lane Bookshop

Spring 2014

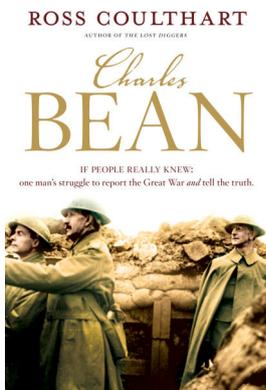


### The Rosie Effect by Graeme Simsion

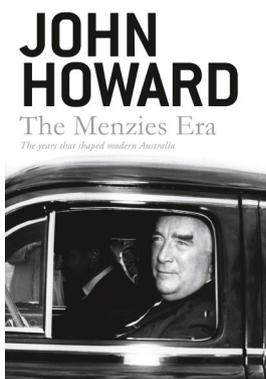
Don Tillman is back! He and new wife Rosie are now living in NYC. Don is on the faculty at Columbia University and Rosie is enrolled in the MD program as well as finishing her PHD. For Don, it's been the best year of his life. He's married to the woman he loves and she even understands and accepts his unique personality. Everything is sorted. Very very sorted. So when Rosie announces she's pregnant, Don's neatly arranged life is thrown into disarray. However, in true Don style, he sets out to become an expert in pregnancy, childbirth and parenting, and the ensuing misunderstandings with both Rosie and others create chaos. Just like its predecessor, The Rosie Project, this book charms with its madcap humour as we follow Don into the unknown territory of impending fatherhood. It's slapstick on the page and you may well recognize a bit of someone you know in Don.

We are hosting **Graeme Simsion** on **October 20**, after which some signed copies will be available. See in store for details.

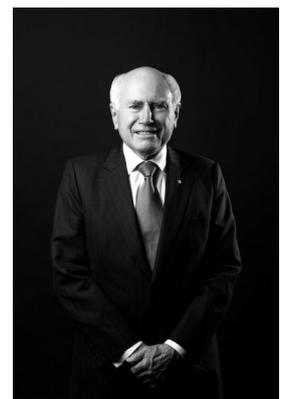
## Author Events

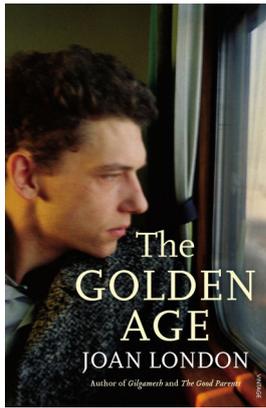


**Ross Coulthart** will speak about his new book **Charles Bean** on Wednesday October 29 at 7.30pm in the Senior Common Room at Christ Church Grammar School, Claremont. Tickets are \$10 and available from The Lane Bookshop



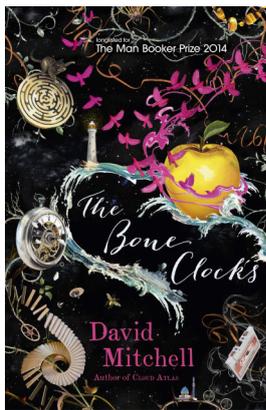
**John Howard** will speak about his new book **The Menzies Era** on November 5 at 7.30pm in the Chapel at Christ Church Grammar School, Claremont. Tickets are \$15 and available from The Lane Bookshop. Ticket holders are entitled to a \$5 discount on purchase of the book.





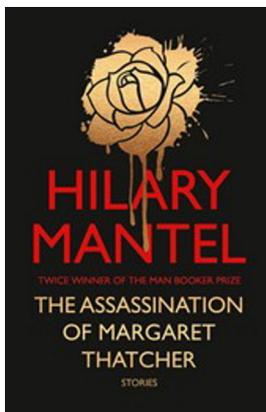
### **The Golden Age by Joan London**

It's 1954 and thirteen-year-old Frank Gold is recovering from Polio in a Perth hospital. He befriends another patient, Sullivan Backhouse, who lies in his bed composing poetry in his head. Frank immediately decides that he too will become a poet. Later, he is moved to The Golden Age Children's Polio Convalescent Hospital in Leederville where he experiences first love, falling for another patient, Elsa. Frank and his parents are refugees from Hungary, still slightly stunned by this very different place they now live in. Soon Frank discovers that The Golden Age is its own little world, where the inhabitants are set apart by their condition, but where love, death and poetry all exist. His stay there will be a formative experience that will follow him for all his days. This is a beautiful novel.



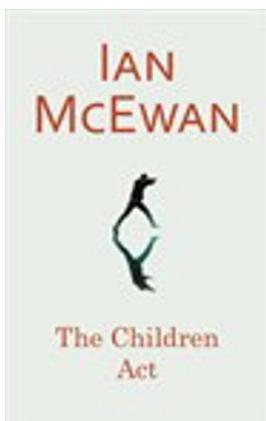
### **The Bone Clocks by David Mitchell**

One day in 1984, teenager Holly Sykes has a fight with her mum and discovers her boyfriend is cheating on her. She decides to teach them a lesson and does a bunk, ending up on a farm picking strawberries. On her way there she asks an old woman on a jetty for a drink. The woman, Esther Little, offers tea if Holly will agree to provide 'asylum' for her if she ever needs it. Assuming Esther is a little crazy, Holly agrees and takes the tea, a decision that will change the course of her life. Decades later, Holly is struggling to keep herself and two children alive and safe in a world ravaged by environmental and economic disasters. *The Bone Clocks* is divided into six parts, the first and last narrated by Holly herself. In between, other characters connected to Holly in various ways tell the story, mixing straightforward narrative with fantasy fiction to great effect.



### **The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher by Hilary Mantel**

Only really skilled writers can do short stories successfully and Hilary Mantel is one of them. In this collection of ten Mantel includes: a housewife in Saudi Arabia who answers the door to a stranger; a pair of young girls spying on a neighbour; an author speaking to a literary group; and a young girl starving herself to death. In the story which gives the book its title, a woman is held hostage by a man planning to shoot the Prime Minister. She is not entirely unsympathetic to his cause. Each tale is compelling and often a mixture of ordinary and disturbing elements laced with Mantel's dark humour.



### **The Children Act by Ian McEwan**

Fiona Maye is a High Court judge at the top of her game. Childless and nearly sixty, she is married to Jack. Known for her elegant, thoughtful judgements, Fiona is putting the final touches on one when Jack suddenly makes an announcement. He is unhappy in their relationship, wants more passion and suggests they make the marriage an open one. Fiona is dumbfounded but just as their argument is about to escalate into a shouting match, the phone rings. She is being asked to make an urgent ruling. A 17 year-old boy suffering from leukemia needs a vital blood transfusion. He and his family are devout Jehovah's Witnesses and are refusing. The hospital is asking for an intervention to save the boy's life. Over the next 2 days, as Fiona hears the arguments, visits the boy in hospital and brings down her judgement, her private life unravels in the background. The Law, religion, ethics and morality are all at play in this new novel from Ian McEwan, written in his customary clean and crisp prose.