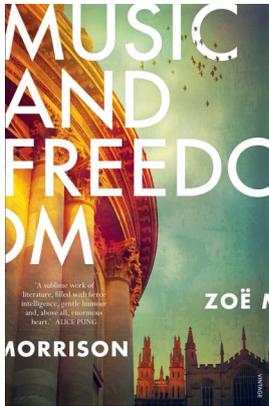


Book News

From The Lane Bookshop

Winter 2016

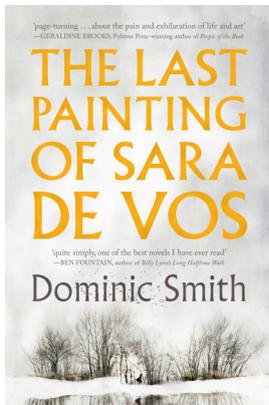


Music and Freedom by Zoe Morrison \$32.99

What a wonderful debut novel this is. In Oxford in 2005 an elderly woman, Alice Murray, spends her days performing four tasks. She files away sheet music; she burns all her husband's books and papers; she makes mysterious phone calls and she strikes notes on a Steinway. Alice is also slowly starving herself to death. And then she hears music, a piano being played. It sounds as though it is coming from next door, but she knows the house to be vacant. Whoever is playing the music is making mistakes and Alice can not stop herself from sounding out corrections on her own piano, thus beginning a musical conversation that will save her life.

Alice was sent to England as a young girl by her mother in the belief that there she would receive a better education than in rural New South Wales in the 1930s.

A gifted piano player, she wins a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London and at a summer school in Oxford one vacation she meets Edward, an economics professor, and agrees to marry him. However as soon as they arrive home after the wedding, Alice discovers that something is wrong. Edward is a tyrant and Alice finds herself trapped and isolated, without the means or wherewithal to escape. Initially she seeks refuge in her music, but eventually even that is taken from her. This is the story of a woman abused, a woman who loses the will to live and then finds it again through love and music.

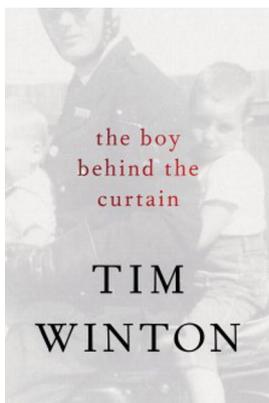


The Last Painting of Sara de Vos by Dominic Smith \$32.99

Ellie Shipley is curating an exhibition of paintings by female Dutch artists for the Art Gallery of New South Wales. When her boss excitedly informs her an American collector, Marty de Groot, has offered the loan of *At the Edge of a Wood* by Sara de Vos for the exhibition, she has to inform the gallery that she has already secured the loan of this particular painting, but from a private collection in Amsterdam. Obviously one of the two is a fake, an embarrassing but not unique problem in the art world, and the gallery decides to ascertain which one is genuine before informing the owner. What is embarrassing for the gallery however, could spell professional disaster for Ellie, who decades previously in New York City forged a copy of *At the Edge of the Wood* herself, which she knows was substituted for the original belonging to Marty. For years she has feared discovery and now she is

convinced her secret is about to be revealed and public humiliation will follow. Alternating between the seventeenth, twentieth and twenty first centuries, Dominic Smith tells the stories of the painter, the forger and the collector.

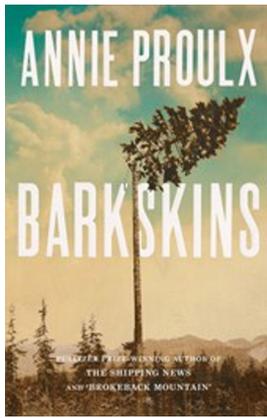
Author Event



Tim Winton will discuss his writing and new book *The Boy Behind the Curtain* at 6.30pm on October 13 in the Chapel at Christ Church Grammar School, Claremont.

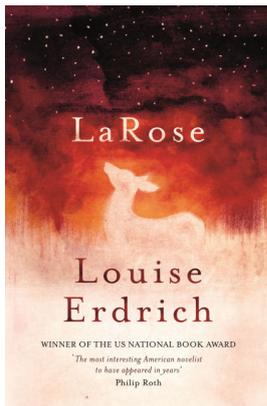
Tickets are \$15 (students \$10) and are available from The Lane Bookshop.

All ticket holders are entitled to a \$10 discount on *The Boy Behind the Curtain* (RRP \$45) up to and including the night.



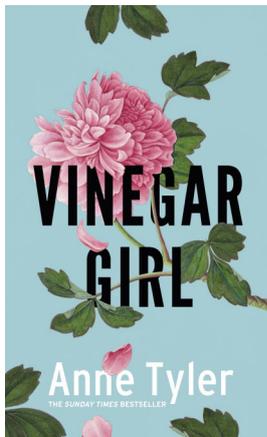
Barkskins by Annie Proulx \$32.99

Late in the 17th century two Frenchmen, Charles Duquet and René Sel, travel to New France as indentured labourers. In exchange for three years work felling trees they are promised land of their own. Duquet does a bunk, becomes a fur trader and eventually founds a timber empire Duke & Sons. Sel remains, marries a native woman and lives a tough life. Annie Proulx's new novel follows these two men and their descendants over the following three hundred years as the forests of North America suffer a decimation equaled only by that of the native population. Large in scope and length, *Barkskins* is dramatic, grisly and utterly absorbing.



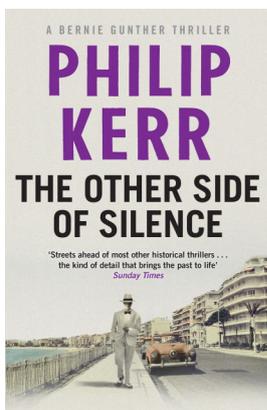
LaRose by Louise Erdrich \$32.99

While out walking his North Dakota property, Landreaux Iron spots a deer he has been keeping an eye on all summer. The animal, now nicely fattened up, is grazing on the border of his neighbour's land. Landreaux has his gun with him and takes the shot, surprised when the buck runs off unharmed. When he gets closer however, he discovers he has killed his neighbour's young son, Dusty. Drawing on their Ojibwe traditions, Landreaux and his wife Emmaline take their own young son, LaRose, and give him to their grieving neighbours. "Our son will be your son now" they say. Over the coming months and years the two families teeter on the edge, full of grief, guilt and anger. Young LaRose however, like his ancestors, is a gifted healer. Slowly but surely his presence takes effect.



Vinegar Girl by Anne Tyler \$29.99

Twenty nine year old Kate Battista lives in her childhood home with her scientist father Louis and teenage sister Bunny. Years ago she was expelled from college and has never bothered to re-apply, instead slowly sliding into a life of caring for her father and sister while working as an aid at a nearby pre-school. Not one to suffer fools gladly, Kate is sharp, witty and abrupt with practically no social skills. When Louis thinks he is in danger of losing the best assistant he's ever had - Russian Pyotr Shcherbakov, in the US on a special visa about to expire - he hatches a plan for Kate and Pyotr to marry, thus providing the latter with a green card. Needless to say, Kate is not thrilled and drama ensues. Pyotr's language skills and Kate's hilarious exchanges with both parents and children at her school provide much of the comedy in this light romance, loosely based on Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*.



The Other Side of Silence by Philip Kerr \$29.99

Bernie Gunther has survived WWII. The ex-soldier, ex-cop and ex-private detective is now living under a false name in the south of France, working as the concierge in the Grand Hotel du St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. He lives a quiet life, playing bridge a couple of times a week with friends and just trying to keep his head down. Then one day he is introduced to the famous British writer Somerset Maugham and Bernie's quiet life is turned upside down. Maugham wants Bernie's help in dealing with a blackmailer, and it turns out the blackmailer is someone from Bernie's past. In addition, his friend and lover Anne French wants him to introduce her to Maugham, about whom she is writing. To complicate matters further, the blackmail attempt involves members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring, not all of whom have been discovered, and British Intelligence wants in on the act.