

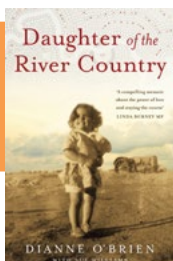
# 16 Days in WA recommended reading list 2021

Curated by the State Library of Western Australia

16  
Days  
in WA

Stop Violence Against Women

## Biographies



### Daughter of the River Country

Dianne O'Brien

From a victim of the Stolen Generations comes a remarkable memoir of abuse, survival – and ultimately hope.

Born in country NSW in the 1940s, baby Dianne is immediately taken from her Aboriginal mother. Raised in the era of the White Australia policy, Dianne grows up believing her adoptive Irish mother, Val, is her birth mother. Val promises Dianne that one day they will take a trip and she will 'tell her a secret'. But before they get the chance, Val tragically dies.

Abandoned by her adoptive father, Dianne is raped at the age of 15, sentenced to Parramatta Girls Home and later forced to marry her rapist in order to keep her baby. She goes on to endure horrific domestic violence at the hands of different partners, alcohol addiction and cruel betrayal by those closest to her. But amazingly her fighting spirit is not extinguished.

At the age of 36, while raising six kids on her own, Dianne learns she is Aboriginal and that her great-grandfather was William Cooper, a famous Aboriginal activist. Miraculously she finds a way to forgive her traumatic past and becomes a leader in her own right, vowing to help other stolen people just like her.



### Fury

Kathryn Heyman

A raw, painfully honest, heartbreaking account of a young woman raising herself out of abuse and poverty to become her own hero.

A roadmap of recovery and transformation, this is the story of becoming heroic in a culture which doesn't see heroism in the shape of a girl.

At the age of twenty, after a traumatic sexual assault trial, Kathryn Heyman ran away from her life and became a deckhand on a fishing trawler in the Timor Sea.

Coming from a family of poverty and violence, she had no real role models, no example of how to create or live a decent life, how to have hope or expectations. But she was a reader. She understood story, and the power of words to name the world. This was to become her salvation.

After one wild season on board the Ocean Thief, the only girl among tough working men, facing storms, treachery and harder physical labour than she had ever known, Heyman was transformed. Finally, she could name the abuses she thought had broken her, could see 'all that she had been blind to, simply to survive'. More than that, after a period of enforced separation from the world, she was able to return to it newly formed, determined to remake the role she'd been born into.

A reflection on the wider stories of class, and of growing up female with all its risks and rewards, **Fury** is a memoir of courage and determination, of fighting back and finding joy.



## Malala Yousafzai (Little People, Big Dreams)

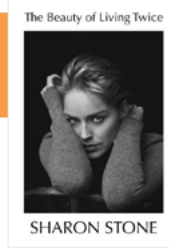
Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara,  
Manal Mirza

In this book from the critically acclaimed, multimillion-copy bestselling Little People, BIG DREAMS series, discover the life of Malala Yousafzai, the incredible activist for girls education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate.

When Malala was born in Mingora, Pakistan, her father was determined she would have every opportunity that a boy would have. She loved getting an education, but when a hateful regime came to power, girls were no longer allowed to go to school.

Malala spoke out in public about this, which made her a target for violence. She was shot in the left side of her head and woke up in hospital in England. Finally after long months and many surgeries, Malala recovered, and resolved to become an activist for girls education.

Now a recent Oxford graduate, Malala continues to fight for a world where all girls can learn and lead. This powerful book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the activist's life.



## The Beauty of Living Twice

Sharon Stone

She was one of the most renowned actresses in the world-until a massive stroke cost her not only her health,

but her career, family, fortune and global fame.

In **The Beauty of Living Twice**, Sharon Stone chronicles her efforts to rebuild her life, and the slow road back to wholeness and health. In an industry that doesn't accept failure, in a world where too many voices are silenced, Stone found the power to return, the courage to speak up, and the will to make a difference in the lives of women and children around the globe.

Over the course of these intimate pages, as candid as a personal conversation, Stone talks about her pivotal roles, her life-changing friendships, her worst disappointments and her greatest accomplishments. She reveals how she went from a childhood of trauma and violence to a business that in many ways echoed those same assaults, under cover of money and glamour. She describes the strength and meaning she found in her children and in her humanitarian efforts. And ultimately, she shares how she fought her way back to find not only her truth, but her family's reconciliation and love.

Stone made headlines not just for her beauty and her talent but for her candour and her refusal to "play nice", and it's those same qualities that make this memoir so powerful. **The Beauty of Living Twice** is a book for the wounded and a book for the survivors; it's a celebration of women's strength and resilience, a reckoning and a call to activism. It is proof that it's never too late to raise your voice and speak out.

## Fiction



### **The Family Doctor**

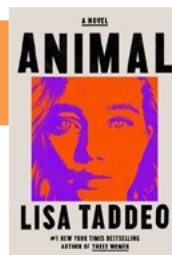
Debra Oswald

Paula is a dedicated suburban GP, who is devastated by the murder of a friend and her children by their estranged husband and father. Stacey and the children had been staying with her after fleeing his control, and Paula is haunted by the thought that she couldn't protect them when they most needed it. How had she missed the warning signs? How had she failed to keep them safe?

Not long after, a patient with suspicious injuries brings her anxious young son into Paula's surgery. The woman admits that her husband hurts her, but she's terrified to leave for fear of escalating the violence, and defeated by the consistent failures of the law to help her.

Can Paula go against everything she believes to make sure one woman is saved, one child spared? She isn't motivated by revenge. She's desperately trying to prevent a tragedy.

A riveting, provocative novel about women's fury, traumatic grief, new love, deep friendship, and the preciousness of life, **The Family Doctor** asks the questions: Should you cling to faith in a flawed system, or take control the only way you can? Can a good person justify taking a life to save a life?



### **Animal**

Lisa Taddeo

Joan has spent a lifetime enduring the cruelties of men. But when one of them commits a shocking act of violence in front of her, she flees New York City in search of Alice, the only person alive who can help her make sense of her past. In the sweltering hills above Los Angeles, Joan unravels the horrific event she witnessed as a child—that has haunted her every waking moment—while forging the power to finally strike back.

**Animal** is a depiction of female rage at its rawest, and a visceral exploration of the fallout from a male-dominated society.



### **Shelter**

Catherine Jinks

Meg lives alone: a little place in the bush outside town. A perfect place to hide. That's one of the reasons she offers to shelter Nerine, who's escaping a violent ex. The other is that Meg knows what it's like to live with an abusive partner.

Nerine is jumpy and her two little girls are frightened. It tells Meg all she needs to know where they've come from, and she's not all that surprised when Nerine asks her to get hold of a gun. But she knows it's unnecessary. They're safe now.

Then she starts to wonder about some little things. A disturbed flyscreen. A tune playing on her windchimes. Has Nerine's ex tracked them down? Has Meg's husband turned up to torment her some more?

By the time she finds out, it'll be too late to do anything but run for her life.



## **The Final Revival of Opal & Nev**

Dawnie Walton

A poignant fictional oral history of a rock 'n' roll duo who shot to fame in 1970s New York, and the secret that lies at the peak of their stardom.

Opal is a fiercely independent young woman pushing against the grain in her style and attitude, Afro-punk before that term existed. Coming of age in Detroit, she can't imagine settling for a 9-to-5 job—despite her unusual looks, Opal believes she can be a star. So when the aspiring British singer/songwriter Neville Charles discovers her at a bar's amateur night, she takes him up on his offer to make rock music together for the fledgling Rivington Records.

In early seventies New York City, just as she's finding her niche as part of a flamboyant and funky creative scene, a rival band signed to her label brandishes a Confederate flag at a promotional concert. Opal's bold protest and the violence that ensues set off a chain of events that will not only change the lives of those she loves, but also be a deadly reminder that repercussions are always harsher for women, especially black women, who dare to speak their truth.

Decades later, as Opal considers a 2016 reunion with Nev, music journalist S. Sunny Shelton seizes the chance to curate an oral history about her idols. Sunny thought she knew most of the stories leading up to the cult duo's most politicized chapter. But as her interviews dig deeper, a nasty new allegation from an unexpected source threatens to blow up everything.



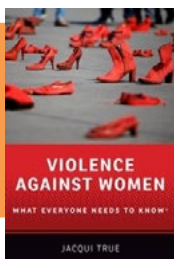
## **Girl A**

Abigail Dean

Lex Gracie doesn't want to think about her family. She doesn't want to think about growing up in her parents' House of Horrors. And she doesn't want to think about her identity as Girl A: the girl who escaped.

When her mother dies in prison and leaves Lex and her siblings the family home, she can't run from her past any longer. Together with her sister, Evie, Lex intends to turn the House of Horrors into a force for good. But first she must come to terms with her six siblings – and with the childhood they shared.

## Non-fiction



### **Violence Against Women: What Everyone Needs to Know** Jacqui True

An accessible introduction to understand the problem of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Provides a synthesis of the latest knowledge on VAWG, what it is, what causes it, its consequences, and how to reduce and prevent it.

Connects women's everyday experiences of violence to broader global patterns.



### **Untold Resilience: Stories of Courage, Survival and Love from Women who Have Gone Before**

A timely and uplifting book of true stories from 19 women whose resilience has seen them survive extraordinary global and personal tragedy.

What does it take to find courage in the midst of deprivation and devastation? Why are some people able to continue living with purpose, even when faced with loss and despair? How does our community turn challenge into triumph? And what can we learn from the exceptional women in our midst who have done just that?

It might feel like we are living in unprecedented times but ours is not the first generation to withstand upheaval as seismic as the COVID-19 pandemic has caused. In every town and

suburb in Australia, there are women from older generations who have encountered unimaginable difficulties before; women who have endured and survived. Their stories are proof of the incredible resilience of the female spirit.

Based on hours of interviews from their homes during lockdown, in Untold Resilience the all-female journalistic team at Future Women uncovers the real-life accounts of a diverse and fascinating collection of women. In doing so they have drawn on the deep wisdom and perspective that can only be gained from a life fully lived.

Our history books have long been dominated by men's triumphant tales but there are also lessons to be learned from the quiet, modest and largely untold experiences of women. With warmth and candour, 19 ordinary, and yet truly remarkable, individuals share their experiences of pandemic, poverty, famine, war, violence and discrimination.

Through these hope-filled stories from women who have gone before, we can find inspiration and comfort, and rebuild faith in our own futures.

| ISBN           | Title                                                                                                   | Fiction / Biography             | Available in Public Libraries | Print / e-Resource |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 9781760686574  | Daughter of the River Country / Dianne O'Brien                                                          | Biography                       | Y                             | Print              |
| 9781922330468  | Shelter / Catherine Jinks                                                                               | Fiction                         | Y                             | Print              |
| 9781760145361  | Untold Resilience: Stories of Courage, Survival and Love from Women Who Have Gone Before / Future Women | Non-fiction                     | Y                             | e-resource         |
| 9781760877781  | The Family Doctor / Debra Oswald                                                                        | Fiction                         | Y                             | Print              |
| 9781760879969  | The Beauty of Living Twice / Sharon Stone                                                               | Biography                       | Y                             | Print              |
| 97815294114509 | The Final Revival of Opal & Nev / Dawnie Walton                                                         | Fiction                         | Y                             | Print              |
| 9780008389062  | Girl A / Abigail Dean                                                                                   | Fiction                         | Y                             | Print              |
| 9780199378937  | Violence Against Women: What Everyone Needs to Know / Jacqui True                                       | Non-fiction                     | Y                             | Print              |
| 9781526630933  | Animal / Lisa Taddeo                                                                                    | Fiction                         | Y                             | Print              |
| 9781760529376  | Fury / Kathryn Heyman                                                                                   | Biography                       | Y                             | Print              |
| 9780711259027  | Malala Yousafzai                                                                                        | Biography – juvenile literature | Y                             | Print              |

To find out more about the 16 Days in WA campaign please visit

[www.communities.wa.gov.au/16DaysinWA](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/16DaysinWA)