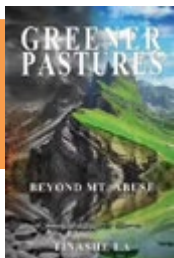


# 16 Days in WA recommended reading list 2022

## Curated by the State Library of WA



### Biographies



#### **Greener Pastures: Beyond Mt. Abuse**

Tinashe La

Greener Pastures beyond Mt. Abuse raises serious and confronting issues affecting the communities and world by reflecting on traditional parenting styles and old cultures and the effects they have on one's life journey.

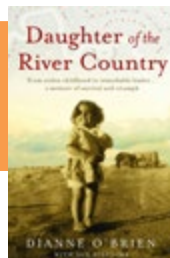


#### **The Mother Wound**

Amani Haydar

Amani Haydar suffered the unimaginable when she lost her mother in a brutal act of domestic violence perpetrated by her father. Five months pregnant at the time, her own perception of how she wanted to mother (and how she had been mothered) was shaped by this devastating murder. After her mother's death, Amani began reassessing everything she knew of her parents' relationship. They had been unhappy for so long - should she have known that it would end like this? A lawyer by profession, she also saw the holes in the justice system for addressing and combating emotional abuse and coercive control. Amani also had to reckon with the weight of familial and cultural context. Her parents were brought together in an arranged marriage, her mother thirteen years her father's junior. Her grandmother was brutally killed in the 2006 war in Lebanon, adding complex layers of intergenerational trauma.

Writing with grace and beauty, Amani has drawn from this a story of female resilience and the role of motherhood in the home and in the world. In *The Mother Wound*, she uses her own strength to help other survivors find their voices.



#### **Daughter of the River Country**

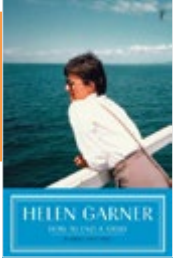
Dianne O'Brien

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.



## **How to End a Story: Diaries. Volume III, 1995-1998**

Helen Garner

Helen Garner's third volume of diaries is an account of a woman fighting to hold on to a marriage that is disintegrating around her. Living with a powerfully ambitious writer who is consumed by his work, and trying to find a place for her own spirit to thrive, she rails against the confines. At the same time, she is desperate to find the truth in their relationship - and the truth of her own self. This is a harrowing story, a portrait of the messy, painful, dark side of love lost, of betrayal and sadness and the sheer force of a woman's anger. But it is also a story of resilience and strength, strewn with sharp insight, moments of joy and hope, the immutable ties of motherhood and the regenerative power of a room of one's own.



## **Truganini: Journey Through the Apocalypse**

Cassandra Pybus

Cassandra Pybus's ancestors told a story of an old Aboriginal woman who would wander across their farm on Bruny Island, in south-east Tasmania, in the 1850s and 1860s. As a child, Cassandra didn't know this woman was Truganini, and that Truganini was walking over the country of her clan, the Nuenonne.

For nearly seven decades, Truganini lived through a psychological and cultural shift more extreme than we can imagine. But her life was much more than a regrettable tragedy. Now Cassandra has examined the original eyewitness accounts to write Truganini's extraordinary story in full.

Hardly more than a child, Truganini managed to survive the devastation of the 1820s, when the clans of south-eastern Tasmania were all but extinguished. She spent five years on a journey around Tasmania, across rugged highlands and through barely penetrable forests, with George Augustus Robinson, the self-styled missionary who was collecting the survivors to send them into exile on Flinders Island. She has become an international icon for a monumental tragedy - the so-called extinction of the original people of Tasmania.

## Fiction



### **The Orchardist's Daughter**

Karen Viggers

A story of freedom, forgiveness and finding the strength to break free. Sixteen-year-old Mikaela has grown up isolated

and home-schooled on an apple orchard in south eastern Tasmania, until an unexpected event shatters her family. Eighteen months later, she and her older brother Kurt are running a small business in a timber town. Miki longs to make connections and spend more time in her beloved forest, but she is kept a virtual prisoner by Kurt, who leads a secret life of his own. When Miki meets Leon, another outsider, things slowly begin to change. But the power to stand up for yourself must come from within. Miki has to fight to uncover the truth of her past and discover her strength and spirit.

Set in the old-growth eucalypt forests and vast rugged mountains of southern Tasmania, *The Orchardist's Daughter* is an uplifting story about friendship, resilience and finding the courage to break free.



### **And Now She's Gone: a Novel**

Rachel Howzell Hall

Isabel Lincoln is gone. But is she missing? It's up to Grayson Sykes to find her. Although

she is reluctant to track down a woman who may not want to be found, Gray's search for Isabel Lincoln becomes more complicated and dangerous with every new revelation about the woman's secrets and the truth she's hidden from her friends and family.

Featuring two complicated women in a dangerous cat and mouse game, *And Now She's Gone* explores the nature of secrets -- and how violence and fear can lead you to abandon everything in order to survive.



### **The Girl She Was**

Rebecca Freeborn

At the cafe in the small town of Glasswater Bay where she works after school, seventeen-year-old Layla enters into a volatile relationship with her married boss. Twenty years later, she receives a message from her former boss's wife. As Layla relives the events from her youth that have shaped her present, her past starts to infiltrate her life in a way she can no longer ignore. She's run from her town, her friends and the memory of what she's done. Now she must face them all.



### **The Spires**

Kate Moretti

Strung between two teenagers, an unemployed husband, and a tenuous career, Penelope Cox barely has her life together

when the past comes knocking at her door. Willa Blaine, her old roommate, needs her help: refuge from an abusive husband. "Two weeks tops," she says--but it's not the imposition that bothers Penelope; it's the memories Willa brings with her.

Twenty years earlier, Penelope, Willa, and three friends lived together in a converted church. Insular and closed off from the rest of the world, the five roommates formed their own dysfunctional family, celebrating the pinnacle of their lives; they called themselves "the Spires." But nights of wild parties gave way to a darker undercurrent: jealousy, resentment, unrequited love, and obsession. Tensions boiled over during a night of debauchery that ended in a deadly fire, leaving the Spires scattered and forever changed.

Now Willa is the perfect houseguest: accommodating, helpful, bringing a newfound sense of excitement to the Cox household. Yet Penelope can't help but feel the cracks in her life widen as she begins to question Willa's motives. Everyone has secrets, it seems--and the fire may have brought down the Spires, but not everything burned was forgotten.



## The House Across the Street

Lesley Pearce

Twenty-three year old Katy Speed is fascinated by the house across the street. The woman who lives there, Gloria,

is the most glamorous neighbour on the avenue, owning a fashionable dress shop in Bexhill-on-Sea. But who is the woman who arrives in the black car most Saturdays while Gloria is at work? Sometimes she brings women to the house, other times they have children.

Hilda, Katy's mother, disapproves of Gloria. She wonders if these mysterious visitors have just been released from prison. Is Gloria secretly bringing criminals, or worse, into the heart of the community? Then one night, the house burns down. In the wreckage, the bodies of Gloria and her daughter are found. Katy is sure the unexplained visitors must be responsible until her father is arrested and charged with murder. Have the police arrested the correct person? Are the rest of the street safe? Can Katy find the truth before it's too late?



## The House of Ashes

Stuart Neville

Sara Keane's husband, Damien, has uprooted them from England and moved them to his native Northern Ireland

for a "fresh start" in the wake of her nervous breakdown. Sara, who knows no one in Northern Ireland, is jobless, carless, friendless—all but a prisoner in her own house. When a blood-soaked old woman beats on the door, insisting the house is hers before being bundled back to her care facility, Sara begins to understand the house has a terrible history her husband never intended for her to discover. As the two women form a bond over their shared traumas, Sara finds the strength to stand up to her abuser, and Mary-silent for six decades – is finally ready to tell her story.



## The Younger Wife

Sally Hepworth

Tully and Rachel are murderous when they discover their father has a new girlfriend. The fact that Heather is half his age isn't

even the most shocking part. Stephen is still married to their mother, who is in a care facility with end-stage Alzheimer's disease. Heather knows she has an uphill battle to win Tully and Rachel over, while carrying the burden of the secrets of her past. But, as it turns out, they are all hiding something. The announcement of Stephen and Heather's engagement threatens to set off a family implosion, with old wounds and dark secrets finally being forced to the surface. A garage full of stolen goods. An old hot-water bottle, stuffed with cash. A blood-soaked wedding. And that's only the beginning.



## Keeper

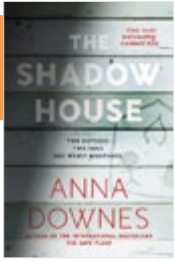
Jessica Moor

When Katie Straw's body is pulled from the waters of the local suicide spot, the police are ready to write it off as a

standard-issue female suicide. But the residents of the domestic violence shelter where Katie worked disagree. These women have spent weeks or even years waiting for the men they're running from to catch up with them. They know immediately: this was murder. Still, Detective Dan Whitworth and his team expect an open-and-shut case—until they discover evidence that suggests Katie wasn't who she appeared.

Weaving together the investigation with Katie's final months as it barrels toward the truth, *The Keeper* is a riveting mystery and a searing examination of violence against women and the structures that allow it to continue, marking the debut of an incredible new voice in crime fiction.





## **The Shadow House**

Anna Downes

When single mother Alex flees her abusive relationship and moves with her teenage son and baby girl to a rural

ecovillage, she thinks she's made the best decision of her life. Pine Ridge is idyllic: the off-grid lifestyle and remote location are perfect, and the community is welcoming - mostly. Charmed by its magnetic founder, Kit, and the natural beauty of the former farmland, Alex settles easily into her new home. But her arrival at Pine Ridge disturbs barely submerged secrets, and she's shaken by a series of eerily familiar events that seem to be connected to the abandoned farmhouse on the hill. Alex realises that, in escaping her own shadowy past, she may have stumbled into someone else's. And this time, there may be nowhere to run.



## **How to Shame the Devil**

Ros Thomas

Art Lambkin, newly confined to a nursing home, is terrified of being erased from the outside world. Determined to remain

relevant, he engages in a correspondent's war on the letters page of his daily newspaper, pitting his acerbic wit against a rogue gallery of bigots, windbags and egomaniacs. But when a woman surfaces from Art's long-ago past, he soon becomes the villain in a scandal that threatens to destroy everything - and everyone - he knows.



## **When You Are Mine**

Michael Robotham

Philomena McCarthy has defied the odds and become a promising young officer with the Metropolitan Police despite

being the daughter of a notorious London gangster. Called to the scene of a domestic assault one day, she rescues a bloodied young woman, Tempe Brown, the mistress of a decorated detective. The incident is hushed up, but Phil has unwittingly made a dangerous enemy with powerful friends. Determined to protect each other, the two women strike up a tentative friendship. Tempe is thoughtful and sweet and makes herself indispensable to Phil, but sinister things keep happening and something isn't quite right about the stories Tempe tells. When a journalist with links to Phil's father and to the detective is found floating in the Thames, Phil doesn't know where to turn, who to blame or who she can trust.



## **How to Play Dead**

Jacqueline Ward

She's watching over them. And he's watching her. Ria Taylor is everything to everyone. Wife and mother, the centre of her

family. And the manager of a refuge for women whose partners have driven them out of their own homes. But one night, with her husband away, Ria receives a terrifyingly sinister message. Someone is watching her. Someone who seems to know everything about her. She knows what she should do seek help, just like she tells her clients to. But Ria is the help. As events escalate, and terror takes hold, Ria must decide whether to run or hide.

## Non-fiction



### **Daughters of Durga: Dowries, Gender Violence and Family in Australia**

Manjula Datta O'Connor

In the early 2010s a spate of domestic violence related murders in the Victorian Indian community compelled psychiatrist Manjula Datta O'Connor to investigate the causes of patriarchal abuse in South Asian families. As a practitioner with many decades experience in the field, O'Connor questioned whether a better understanding of history and culture could help these communities implement measures to prevent family violence. But the most powerful lessons came from those she met through her practice -- survivors of transnational abuse and of sexual and dowry exploitation. These women taught O'Connor about human resilience and strength and the myriad ways women find the inner power to survive. These are the daughters of the goddess Durga, wielding the tools of history to produce meaningful change.



### **Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men**

Caroline Criado Perez

In her new book, Invisible Women, award-winning campaigner and writer Caroline Criado Perez shows us how, in a world largely built for and by men, we are systematically ignoring half the population. She exposes the gender data gap - a gap in our knowledge that is at the root of perpetual, systemic discrimination against women, and that has created a pervasive but invisible bias with a profound effect on women's lives. Caroline brings together for the first time an impressive range of case studies, stories and new research from across the world that illustrate the hidden ways in which women are excluded from the very building blocks of the world we live in, and the impact this has on their health and wellbeing. From government policy and medical research, to technology, workplaces, urban planning and the media - Invisible Women exposes the biased data that excludes women. In making the case for change, this powerful and provocative book will make you see the world anew.

## Young adult - fiction



### **Grown: a Novel** Tiffany D. Jackson

When legendary R&B artist Korey Fields spots Enchanted Jones at an audition, her dreams of being a famous singer take

flight. Until Enchanted wakes up with blood on her hands and zero memory of the previous night. Who killed Korey Fields? Before there was a dead body, Enchanted's dreams had turned into a nightmare. Because behind Korey's charm and star power was a controlling dark side. Now he's dead, the police are at the door, and all signs point to Enchanted.



### **Vile Stars** Sera Milano

This is a different kind of love story.

17-year-old Luka isn't looking for love. She's trying to piece her life back together after a heartbreaking loss. But when she meets the gorgeous and charismatic Cosmo under a meteor shower at the Greenwich Observatory, it feels like destiny has played a hand. Surely theirs is a love written in the stars.

But Cosmo isn't what he seems, using Luka's love for him to slowly take control of her life. As the pandemic starts to make headlines and lockdown sets in, she is trapped emotionally and physically in a coercive relationship. Luka's friends and brother can see what's happening but struggle to reach her. Something will have to be sacrificed so Luka can set herself free - but what will be left of her when she does?

Luka's story is told from many points of view: through her letters, and through the voices of her brother, Alec, his boyfriend Theo and Luka's best friend, Roisin. Each of them holds a fragment of the story - it's time to put it all together.

ISBN	Title	Literary Genre	Available in Public Libraries	Print / e-Resource
9780994593849	Greener Pastures: Beyond Mt. Abuse / Tinashe La [2018]	Biography	Y	print
9781760982454	The Mother Wound / Amani Haydar [2021]	Biography	Y	Print
9781760686574	Daughter of the River Country [2021]	Biography	Y	Print / eResource ebook
9781922458179	How to End a Story: Diaries. Volume III, 1995-1998 / Helen Garner [2021]	Biography	Y	Print / eresource ebook
9780369333827	Truganini: Journey Through the Apocalypse / Cassandra Pybus [2020]	Biography	Y	Print / eResource ebook
9780369300355	The Orchardist's Daughter / Karen Viggers [2019]	Fiction	Y	Print
9781250753175	And Now She's Gone: a Novel / Rachel Howzell Hall [2020]	Fiction	Y	print
9780648508434	The Girl She Was / Rebecca Freeborn [2020]	Fiction	Y	Print
9781925227581	Hide / S.J. Morgan [2019]	Fiction	Y	Print
9780718189259	The House Across the Street / Lesley Pearse [2018]	Fiction	Y	Print
9781838775322	The House of Ashes / Stuart Neville [2022}	Fiction	Y	Print
9781786493798	How to Play Dead / Jacqueline Ward [2019]	Fiction	Y	Print
9780143134527	Keeper / Jessica Moor [2020]	Fiction	Y	Print
9781922419743	The Shadow House / Anna Downes [2021]	Fiction	Y	Print
9781542021715	The Spires / Kate Moretti [2021]	Fiction	Y	Print
9780733645921	When You Are Mine / Michael Robotham [2021]	Fiction	Y	print
9781760784980	The Younger Wife / Sally Hepworth [2021]	Fiction	Y	Print
9780648706328	How to Shame the Devil / Ros Thomas [2021]	Fiction	Y	Print
9780522878257	Daughters of Durga: Dowries, Gender Violence and Family in Australia / Manjula Datta O'Connor [2022]	Non-fiction	Y	Print / eResource ebook
9781784742928	Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men / Caroline Criado Perez [2019]	Non-fiction	Y	Print / eResource ebook
9780062840356	Grown: a Novel / Tiffany D. Jackson [2020]	Fiction – Young adult	Y	Print
9780755500741	Vile Stars/ Sera Milano [2022]	Fiction – Young adult	Y	Print