

Recent Books from New Zealand – Feb 2020

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
Fax : +65-6883-2144
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Biography

Life as a Casketeer / Francis & Kaiora Tipene with Paul Little
Auckland: HarperCollins Publishers, 2020
336p.
9781775541486
\$ 40.00 / PB
450gm.

Francis and Kaiora Tipene aren't your typical funeral directors. With their famous humour and big-hearted personalities, the TVNZ and Netflix reality TV stars are changing the way we think about death and grief.

Life as a Casketeer reveals how Francis and Kaiora grew up in families that had few possessions but were rich with love and tikanga, and how they came to work in their often misunderstood profession. It's also a book about the Maori world view and traditional funeral customs. The Tipenes make death feel less mysterious and life feel more precious.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685481>

The Longest Day : Standing up to Depression and Tackling the Coast to Coast / Matt Calman
Auckland: Allen & Unwin, 2020
304p.
9781988547305
\$ 35.00 / PB
400gm.

Matt Calman's most consistent tool for dealing with problems throughout his life was alcohol. But it got to the stage where he was no longer willing to put up with the dark side of his drinking.

So he quit. But the problems that had been simmering away for most of his life merely came to a head. It led to a major depressive phase with panic attacks and thoughts of suicide. Finally Matt began the slow climb to rebuild himself. He was ready to find something. It just happened to be the Coast to Coast Multisport World Championships, the toughest endurance race in New Zealand. The Longest Day outlines Matt's path back from depression, his struggles to learn to run, cycle and kayak at an elite level and the culmination of all that training: his Coast to Coast race. Through his training he learns about process rather than outcome, and how true success and enjoyment is embedded in the journey not the destination. This is a riveting read for sports fans and a compelling account of courage and determination.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685482>

Linguistics

Te Reo Maori : The Basics Explained / David Karena-Holmes
Auckland: Oratia Books, 2020

168p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9780947506698

\$ 35.00 / PB

276gm.

The use of te reo Maori has snowballed in the past few years, as has the demand for Maori language courses and resources. But many English speakers yearn for a thorough guide to the building blocks of grammar in te reo, and the differences between Maori and English language principles. Te Reo Maori: The Basics Explained offers just that. After an introductory chapter on pronunciation and written forms of the language, 17 chapters introduce the main base words, particles and determiners that guide their use. The book employs real-life examples to illustrate how M?ori grammar works day to day, while teaching how to build phrases, sentences and paragraphs.

All in a user-friendly layout, with key language aspects highlighted.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685483>

Literature

Shakti : Your Power. Our Rules / Rajorshi Chakraborti
Auckland: Penguin Random House New Zealand, 2020
336p.
9780143773894
\$ 36.00 / PB
448gm.

Special powers are gifted, but there is a Faustian price to pay in this epic novel, packed with laughter, darkness, pain, dreams, superpowers, love and light. *What if the greatest gift you ever received came from those you trusted least? What if it stained your hands with blood, but also turned you into a hero? What if giving it up was not an option?*

Amid a climate of right-wing, nationalist politics, three Indian women find themselves wielding powers that match their wildest dreams. There is one catch: they come with a Faustian price. With unforgettable heroines and at an irresistible pace, *Shakti* unfolds a world of as much courage as there is darkness, and a journey across a country in the throes of transformation. A hitherto unseen country, made up of the secrets, longings, wounds and strengths of many human hearts.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685484>

The General and the Nightingale : Dan Davin's War Stories / (Ed)
Janet Wilson
Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2020
364p.
Includes Select Bibliography
9781988531823
\$ 45.00 / HB
634gm.

Dan Davin was the author of the only substantial body of war fiction written by a New Zealand soldier during any of the wars of the 20th century in which the nation was engaged. *The General and the Nightingale* brings together Davin's 20 war stories, some drawn from his war diaries and loosely based on his experiences as 'a wartime scholar-soldier' and those of his fellow soldiers in the British and New Zealand armies. They yield an unparalleled insight into the Kiwi or Anzac soldier at war during the Mediterranean and African desert campaigns of World War II.

Editor Janet Wilson notes they can be read as ‘fictionalised accounts rather than imaginative fictions’. Born and raised in a working-class Catholic family in Southland, Davin was a Rhodes Scholar and had recently completed a degree at Oxford when he enlisted in the British Army in 1939. After receiving a commission in 1940 he successfully applied to be transferred to the New Zealand forces. He saw active service in Greece and North Africa, was wounded in Crete, and rose to become General Freyberg’s intelligence officer in the Italian campaign. The General and the Nightingale updates an earlier collection of Davin’s war stories published in 1986 as *The Salamander in the Fire* and long out of print. This new publication features comprehensive notes, a glossary, a chronology, a map of story locations, a bibliography and an extensive introduction by Janet Wilson. It is a companion volume to *The Gorse Blooms Pale: Dan Davin’s Southland short stories* (OUP, 2007), which is also being reissued.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685485>

The Gorse Blooms Pale : Dan Davin’s Southland Stories / (Ed)

Janet Wilson

Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2007 (Reprinted 2020)

320p.

9781877372421

\$ 45.00 / HB

566gm.

The Gorse Blooms Pale gathers together twenty-six stories reflecting on his experiences while growing up in an Irish-New Zealand family in Southland.

Comic, haunting, poetic, profound and lyrical, the stories have a regional flavour quite unlike any other body of work in New Zealand literature. They insightfully capture the character of a close-knit community on the edge of town with a flair equal to such other New Zealand writers as Sargeson, Frame, Middleton or Marshall. *The Gorse Blooms Pale* is a rare treasure in the landscape of twentieth-century New Zealand literature.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685486>

All the Way to Summer : Stories of Love and Longing / Fiona

Kidman

Auckland: Vintage (Penguin Random House New Zealand, 2020)

368p.

9780143773658

\$ 40.00 / HB
546gm.

A powerful collection of stories exploring love and longing from the award-winning author of *This Mortal Boy*. Fiona Kidman's early stories about New Zealand women's experiences scandalised readers with their vivid depictions of the heartbreaks and joys of desire, illicit liaisons and unconventional love. Her writing made her a feminist icon in the early 1980s, and she has since continued to tell the realities of women's lives, her books resonating with many readers over the years and across the world.

To mark her 80th birthday, this volume brings together a variety of her previously published stories as well as several that are new or previously uncollected; all moving, insightful and written with love. The final stories trace her own history of love, a memoir of significant people from childhood and beyond.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685487>

2000ft Above Worry Level / Eamonn Marra
Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2020
192p. ; 210x138mm.
9781776562978
\$ 30.00 / PB
266gm.

Everything is sad and funny and nothing is anything else

2000ft Above Worry Level begins on the sad part of the internet and ends at the top of a cliff face. This episodic novel is piloted by a young, anhedonic, gentle, slightly disassociated man. He has no money. He has a supportive but disintegrating family. He is trying hard to be better. He is painting a never-ending fence.

Eamonn Marra's debut novel occupies the precarious spaces in which many twenty-somethings find themselves, forced as they are to live in the present moment as late capitalism presses in from all sides. Mortifying subjects – loserdom, depression, unemployment, cam sex – are surveyed with dignity and stoicism. Beneath Marra's precise, unemotive language and his character's steadfast grip on the surface of things, something is stirring.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685488>

Head Girl / Freya Daly Sadgrove
Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2020
96p.

9781776562961
\$ 25.00 / PB
154gm.

‘The first time I read Freya’s work I thought . . . uh oh. And then I thought, you have got to be kidding me. And then I thought, God fucking dammit. And then I walked around the house shaking my head thinking . . . OK – alright. And then – finally – I thought, well well well – like a smug policeman. Listen – she’s just the best. I’m going to say this so seriously. She is, unfortunately, the absolute best. Trying to write a clever blurb for her feels like an insult to how right and true and deadly this collection is. God, she’s just so good. She’s the best. She kills me always, every time, and forever.’
—Hera Lindsay Bird

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685489>

This is Your Real Name / Elizabeth Morton (Ed) Anna Hodge
Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2019
72p.
9781988531922
\$ 28.00 / PB
150gm.

In lieu of flowers, bring weeds. Elizabeth Morton’s poems look unflinchingly at a raw and unstable world – the crash, the aftermath, the comeback, ‘the black heat at the centre of things’. The poems in Morton’s second collection are charged with a visceral energy. This is poetry as incantation: an intense, larger-than-life, tactile experience. Underneath the surface of the contemporary world of Poke´mon, The Cosby Show and hospital cubicles, the reader is drawn into a dreamscape of creeks and bogs, a fiery meadow and the guts of the sea. A blindman circles a Minotaur; a black horse rides through the pages. As the reader finds handholds within Morton’s poems, they may trace a dislocation between the voices here and the worlds into which they’re thrown – a strangely askew New Zealand, a mythological America, in liminal spaces where identity and meaning become blurred and uncertain. Jammed full of want, need, despair, love and politics, these are poems of archaeology and identity – where will we dig for our selves? By what names are we called? By whom are we known? This is darkly funny, unsettling writing that strips all the meat from the bones, ‘always writing the same story’.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685490>

New Transgender Blockbuster / Oscar Upperton
Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2020
72p.
9781776562992
\$ 25.00 / PB
120gm.

*The dead should come back changed, or what's the point?
Why do you hide your head beneath the bedclothes?
Doesn't everyone name themselves?
Is your house a bottle? Are you trapped in there?
Isn't it nice to be this close to someone?
Can we go back to our notes? Please?*

Urgent, witty and unnervingly beautiful, Oscar Upperton's first collection takes familiar language and makes it uncanny. Suns detach. The ocean climbs a mast. Someone forgets where their haunted house is. These poems are vitally human and consoling; they reframe the ordinary as something to yearn for.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685491>
