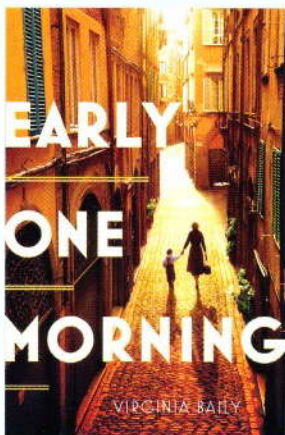




Summer Reads

Our top picks for beach, bach and backyard reading.



EARLY ONE MORNING

VIRGINIA BAILY
(HACHETTE, \$37.99)

Would you save a child's life if you could? It's 1943 and Chiara Ravello impulsively adopts a Jewish boy whose parents are being sent to a concentration camp. Virginia Baily's follow-up to her prizewinning *Africa Junction* covers the 30 years of consequences that spill out from that split-second decision. But this absorbing novel is more family saga than wartime tale, stretching from the scarred 1940s to the 70s, from Rome to suburban Cardiff. It isn't Disney, though: life

doesn't follow a happy arc for either Ravello or her adopted son, and years later, a random phone call from a 15-year-old Welsh girl picks over the relationship scabs. Fortunately, it's not as grim as it sounds and Baily offers a fresh approach to this much-documented period.

SHARON STEPHENSON

DAY BOY

TRENT JAMIESON
(TEXT, \$37)

Being a master (basically a vampire) has its perks: a town to lord over, fresh blood to drink and immortality if you can avoid being sizzled by

the sun. But how do you ensure your will is carried out during the day? In a future Australia, after some sort of apocalypse, each master has a day boy to do his bidding – primarily running errands and finding victims. We follow day boy Mark as his time serving the surprisingly civil Dain draws to a close and he ponders his future path, perhaps as a master himself. Soon it becomes clear that human frailties, pride and rivalries pose dangers even to the virtually immortal. Coherent within its world, this escapist read is hard to put down.

MICHAEL HENRY



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