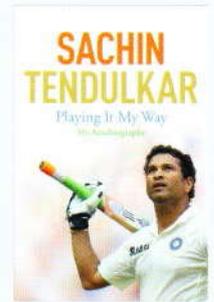
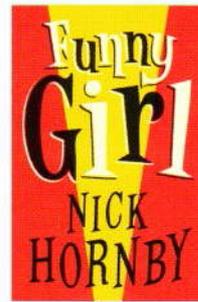
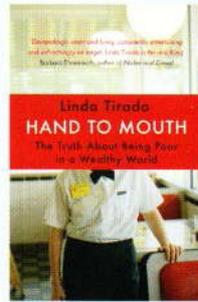
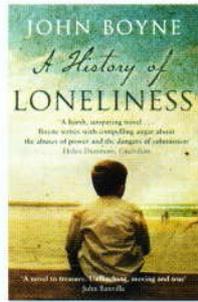
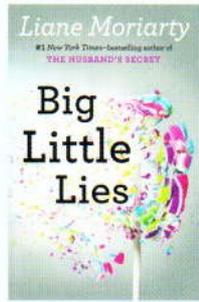
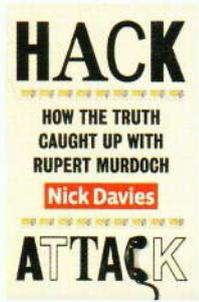


✦ REVIEW

international books edited by stacey anyan



**HACK ATTACK:
HOW THE TRUTH
CAUGHT UP WITH
RUPERT MURDOCH**
NICK DAVIES (PENGUIN
RANDOM HOUSE, \$39.99)

If you followed the UK's tabloid hacking scandal in *The Guardian* and other media, you might think you know what there is to know. Don't make that mistake and pass over this book. Author and journalist Nick Davies led the *Guardian's* investigation that opened up the sordid world of tabloid phone hacking – not just of celebrities, but of many ordinary people and often at times of great personal distress. *Hack Attack* brings all of that together vividly. It also puts it into the context of a broader range of nefarious activities going back to the mid-1990s. Davies' story is a case study in corruption: how it starts and how it spreads and how it benefits a manipulative power elite at the expense of ordinary people and of democracy itself. Better still, he tells it grippingly.

ROB O'NEILL

BIG LITTLE LIES
LIANE MORIARTY
(MACMILLAN, \$37.99)

Part noir suburban

mystery, part domestic drama, this brash Aussie novel is about parents behaving badly. There's been a murder at Piriwee Primary's Trivia Night but who is the victim and who the perpetrator? The story unspools six months prior to the event, revealing the little lies we tell, often to disguise the big ones. Moriarty's three key characters are each at a crossroads: Madeline, whose ex-husband has moved into the beachside suburb with his new family; Celeste, whose perfect life hides a bloody secret, and Jane, a young single mother who's fighting her own demons. Chuck in bullying, domestic violence, infidelity and helicopter parenting and the touch-paper is lit. Yet another wickedly brilliant novel from this Australian writer.

SHARON STEPHENSON

**A HISTORY OF
LONELINESS**
JOHN BOYNE (PENGUIN
RANDOM HOUSE, \$36.99)

Father Odran Yates has chosen to be an almost incidental character in his own life. So it comes as an almighty shock to him to be forced to question his life in the Catholic Church

– his colleagues' actions and his own inaction – in the maelstrom of the church's child abuse scandal. This story of the devilishly distorting influence the church had on Irish society could bring you to your knees as it seamlessly spans four decades to reveal festering secrets in the life of Father Yates, his family and the church to which he's been devoted. The language is evocative; the narrative moving, nuanced and unflinching. John Boyne, Irish author of the best-selling *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, has produced a book that feels deeply personal and righteously angry.

JULIE COOK

**HAND TO MOUTH:
THE TRUTH ABOUT
BEING POOR IN A
WEALTHY WORLD**
LINDA TIRADO
(HACHETTE, \$34.99)

Tirado is an accidental activist, having scored a book deal after her response to a question on an internet forum she frequented – "Why do poor people do things that seem so self-destructive?" – went viral. As she and her husband are long-term, low-wage workers with two small children,

scraping to make a living in the so-called land of opportunity, she felt qualified to take a stab. With cohesive reasoning and considerable wit, she defends using loan sharks, having children, not caring for the environment, eating junk food – even smoking. Her anger – the result of depression, sleep deprivation, poor health and seemingly always being on the arse end of interactions with other humans – is palpable, but this manifesto is more food for thought than extended whinge. For starters: are we content to live in a society where some workers have to ask permission to go to the toilet?

STACEY ANYAN

FUNNY GIRL
NICK HORNBY (PENGUIN
RANDOM HOUSE, \$37)

In the same way floral wallpaper and Crown Lynn vases are returning to New Zealand homes, so nostalgia reigns over Hornby's seventh novel. His may be the narrowest of historical fiction genres – mid-1960s British sitcom culture – but Hornby embraces the era with unabashed affection. Barbara Parker arrives in London in 1964, with her