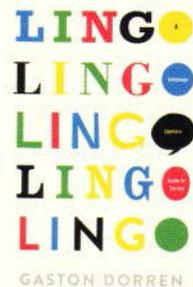
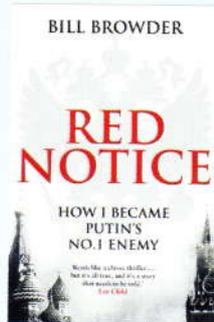
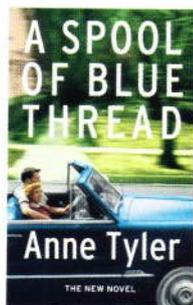
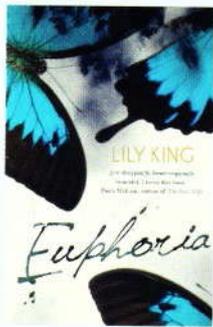


+ REVIEW

international books edited by stacey anyan



EUPHORIA LILY KING (MACMILLAN, \$34.99)

Lily King's latest novel is inspired by the real-life experiences of three anthropologists – one of them the controversial and revolutionary Margaret Mead. We find the protagonist, Nell Stone, in the mysterious, dank jungle of 1930s New Guinea struggling and in love with both her husband and their colleague. The competitive love triangle is compelled as much by fierce intellect and ego as it is by sex. King deftly paints a picture of desires and dangers growing as dark secrets held by the natives are revealed. In her typically captivating style, King takes her characters on a vertiginous journey navigating the psyche of one culture in an attempt to understand the heart of all humanity. This is a powerful, absorbing read and an inspiring portrait of a feminist heroine.

CHARLOTTE ARMSTRONG

A SPOOL OF BLUE THREAD ANNE TYLER (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$36.99)

Tyler's last book? In a recent BBC interview, she intimated as much

– after 50 years of storytelling triumphs like *The Accidental Tourist* and *Breathing Lessons*. *A Spool of Blue Thread* is set in Baltimore, like so many of her novels, and centres around Red and Abby Whitshank and their four adult children, who rally at the beloved family home to make some difficult decisions about their ageing parents' care. Tyler's trick is to create characters so exasperatingly human you feel like you're eavesdropping – in the Whitshank house on marital and sibling secrets, rivalries, regrets, unexpected loss and equally unexpected forgiveness. Not a classic like *Accidental Tourist*, but still threaded with fresh, quirky Tyler magic.

VIRGINIA LARSON

RED NOTICE BILL BROWDER (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$37.99)

A nail-biting thriller set in London, Moscow, Davos and Washington – a tale of billions made, millions lost, extremes of bravery and greed. And, incredibly, it's all true. The battles of the author, financier Bill Browder – once Russia's largest investor – featured regularly in the finance sections of the world's

press before shifting, tragically, to front pages with the torture and murder of his tax lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, by the Russian state. Browder's own life story, from his \$US2000 life savings invested at 26 which increased 10 times in value ("the sensation of finding a 'ten bagger' must be the financial equivalent of smoking crack cocaine") to his battles with Russian oligarchs, is compelling. Not only is Browder the ultimate in global financial insiders, he is also a punchy, courageous and humane writer – with an incendiary story to tell.

JENNY NICHOLLS

SOME LUCK JANE SMILEY (MACMILLAN, \$34.99)

With the exception of cute puppies, dark chocolate and a Lotto win, in my world there's nothing better than a Jane Smiley novel. Here Smiley returns to the formula of her 1992 Pulitzer Prize winning novel *A Thousand Acres*, with the first in a trilogy that follows an Iowan farming family from 1920-2019 (this book ends in 1953). Each chapter chronicles one year in the life of the Langdons and their six

children as they amble through decades of social and political upheaval. Along with heavy-hitters such as war, poverty and postnatal depression, details such as making dinner, first love and the arrival of electricity also interest Smiley. The best bit, though? There are two more books to come.

SHARON STEPHENSON

LINGO: A LANGUAGE- SPOTTER'S GUIDE TO EUROPE GASTON DORREN (ALLEN & UNWIN, \$29.99)

We are what we speak, as well as what we eat. This "language spotter's guide" proves it with an entertaining exploration of the idiosyncrasies and evolutionary quirks of more than 50 European languages. Linguist and polyglot Gaston Dorren delves into the past to reveal why terms for one thing are alike and others different, where various words were imported from or exported to, and even what the Inari-Sami's 20-odd words for snow are. The book is full of fun facts, including recommendations for words – such as the German *gönnen* (meaning to be gladdened by someone else's good