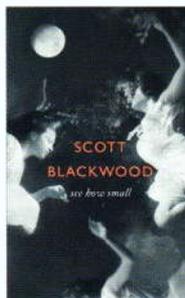
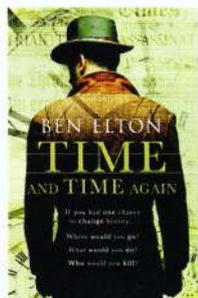
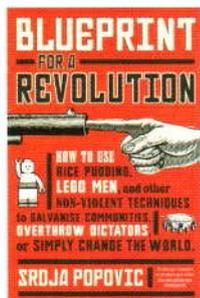


## + REVIEW



the modern art of public shaming. Ronson (*The Psychopath Test*, *The Men Who Stare at Goats*) has certainly put in the leg work, but I found his persona – so carefully cultivated and archly self-aware – starts to rub a little thin. **JOANNA WANE**

**THE ALTOGETHER UNEXPECTED DISAPPEARANCE OF ATTICUS CRAFTSMAN**  
MAMEN SANCHEZ (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$36.99)

If this novel were bottled, it'd be the rosé – or Spanish rosado – everyone recommends next summer. Deliberately, pleasantly light, it is the book to open when a big, complex Bordeaux novel feels too heavy. The Spanish author's characters are as much fun as they are clichéd. A repressed Englishman with an Earl Grey tea addiction disappears after flying into Madrid to close down a literary magazine owned by his family. Enter: one bumbling detective, five feisty female magazine employees, a comically English uptight mother, a smattering of literary references and a village full of fiery, musical Spaniards. When occasion demands something easy to quaff, try *Atticus Craftsman*. Before you know it, the bottle will be empty.

**SUE HOFFART**

**BLUEPRINT FOR REVOLUTION**  
SRDJA POPOVIC (SCRIBE, \$35)

Back in 2000, Srdja Popovic became a leader of the student movement Otpor! that led to the overthrow of dictator Slobodan Milošević and the establishment of democracy in Serbia. The key to that success was what he terms the “smiling barrel” of humour. “The only thing that could trump fear was laughter... humour doesn't just make you chuckle – it makes you think,” he writes in this fascinating and entertaining book. Popovic tracks around the world to show that non-violent resistance repeatedly wins where violence fails, and is more likely to effect long-term change. New Zealand may not be under the yoke of dictatorship, but his clear ideas and guidelines apply to any social campaign or movement. Anyone with an appetite for change should find real value here.

**JIM ROBINSON**

**TIME AND TIME AGAIN**  
BEN ELTON (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$36.99)

Istanbul, 1914. Boots are on the ground. Boots from the year 2025, bearing Hugh Stanton, ex-soldier and professional adventurer,

who would rather be dead. Carrying the ghosts of his family, with nothing to lose and millions of lives to gain, Stanton has been sent back to save humanity from the consequences of the 20th century's mistakes. We watch the world change as Stanton subverts cusp-of-war Europe, seduces passionate Irish suffragette Bernadette, and suffers the apocalyptic, tattooed rage of fellow time-traveller Katie. Elton's grasp of the era's geopolitics, eye for evocative period detail and understanding of the vagaries of human nature deliver a book of brutal action, poignancy, hope and loss – resonant with warning bells. And just when you think you're on sure ground, the story shifts under your feet like a Newtonian time loop. It's a thought-provoking surprise. **JULIE COOK**

**BECOMING WESTERLY: THE TRANSFORMATION OF SURFING CHAMPION PETER DROUYN INTO WESTERLY WINDINA**  
JAMIE BRISICK (ALLEN & UNWIN, \$36.99)

Australian surfer Peter Drouyn burst onto the world scene in the mid-60s and quickly established a reputation as an innovator and entertainer who mastered moves on a surfboard that others

couldn't. Off the water, he had a propensity for excess and did things that others wouldn't. So the surfing community wasn't overly shocked when he began a new life a decade ago, living as a woman, Westerly Windina. Brisick's biography stems from a documentary he was making about Drouyn/Windina, during which he was variously puzzled, frustrated and amused by his subject, her divaish demands, fantastical plans and accounts of her previous identity. All that makes for a compelling read as Brisick wonders how an Aussie beach bloke became a flamboyant woman sending him dozens of selfies late at night, posing as Marilyn Monroe.

**MATT ELLIOTT**

**SEE HOW SMALL**  
SCOTT BLACKWOOD (HARPERCOLLINS, \$26.99)

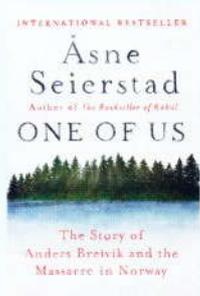


In a small Texas town, three teenage girls are bound, raped and set alight in an ice-cream shop. In his debut novel, Scott Blackwood focuses on those trying to come to terms with the brutal murders, including the mother of two of the girls, the fireman who found the bodies, an Iraq War veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder who may have seen something, and the unsuspecting getaway driver. Based on a 1991 event, the story builds upon the grief of lives cut short, of loss that never ends and justice that remains elusive. The only jarring element is the dead girls, who show up occasionally to try and connect with those they left behind. That aside, Blackwood has nailed it.

**SHARON STEPHENSON**

## + REVIEW

**international books** edited by stacey anyan



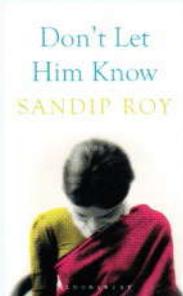
**ONE OF US**  
**ÅSNE SEIERSTAD**  
(HACHETTE, \$39.99)

Anders Breivik shot dead 67 teenagers, but was he insane? Norwegian journalist Åsne Seierstad was commissioned by *Newsweek* for a piece on “that man” behind the 2011 Utoya Island massacre and Oslo car bombing. After covering the trial, Seierstad felt she had to dig deeper, to find out more – and not only about Breivik. In this fine work, beautifully translated from Norwegian, his life unfolds alongside those of teen victims Bano Rashid and Simon Saebo, political stars in the making. Some of the most harrowing passages describe incredible police bumbling, as a teenager a minute was gunned down. This is journalism at its finest – both as a sensitive memorial to irreplaceable young lives and a crystalline account of what went so wrong in Norway and why.

JENNY NICHOLLS

**DON'T LET HIM KNOW**  
**SANDIP ROY**  
(ALLEN & UNWIN, \$35)

Author Sandip Roy once said that, in India, a gay person's entire family “goes inside the closet”. His first novel, which spans four decades of a Bengali

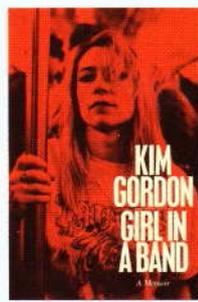
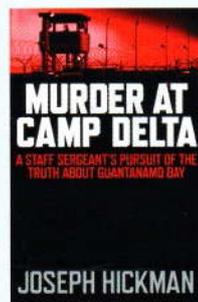


family in flux, is built on this premise: Romola knows about her husband's unrequited attraction to men but is dealing with her own lost love. Their son, meanwhile, is unaware of his parents' secrets and struggling to find his own way. The result is a family split between India and America, between past and present, between duty and temptation. For all the big themes, the real joy is in the ordinary moments – a broken Mickey Mouse watch, a haircut, jars of mango chutney hidden under a bed. Tender, sad and beautifully told.

SHARON STEPHENSON

**MURDER AT CAMP DELTA: A STAFF SERGEANT'S PURSUIT OF THE TRUTH ABOUT GUANTÁNAMO BAY**  
**JOSEPH HICKMAN**  
(SIMON & SCHUSTER, \$32.99)

Staff Sergeant Joe Hickman didn't actually see rags being stuffed down the throats of three prisoners at Guantánamo Bay. He didn't actually see them die. But he was on duty close by and he builds the evidence so high that the official claim of prisoner suicide looks absurd. He then presents a carefully reasoned case that “Gitmo” prisoners were likely used to test torture techniques

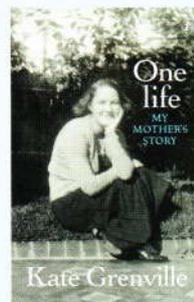


for interrogation: methods such as stuffing rags into throats then dripping water in. Credible? Hickman is no wild conspiracy theorist, but rather an American patriot and he's deeply disturbed by what he finds out. His excellent book explores all kinds of official deception and sanctioned hatred, and shows how far media, and public opinion, can be manipulated. It'll probably make you angry.

JIM ROBINSON

**GIRL IN A BAND**  
**KIM GORDON**  
(ALLEN & UNWIN \$36.99)

Gordon was the bass player for the highly influential New York band Sonic Youth, renowned for eclectic guitar tunings and revelling in musical dissonance. It was formed with her husband, Thurston Moore, and together they were regarded as alternative-rock royalty. For all the chaos they created onstage, they were models of stability off it. That was until Moore's affair brought about the end of the band. While that episode dominates the beginning and end of this book, in between is the story of a shy and sensitive “California girl” finding her way to a place of repute in the New York art and rock



scenes in the 80s and 90s. She also tells of growing up with her schizophrenic older brother, Keller, and the difficulties of being a breastfeeding mother in a touring band. **MATT ELLIOTT**

**ONE LIFE: MY MOTHER'S STORY**  
**KATE GRENVILLE**  
(TEXT, \$37)

Nance Russell lived from 1912 to 2002, a neglected child of the rural working-class who came of age in Sydney as the Great Depression hit. Later, she fought for status as a working mother in what might generously be called pre-feminist Narrabeen. *One Life* is well-known Australian writer Kate Grenville's biography of her own mother, and a tribute to a generation of tough Australian women whose stories have mostly been considered unworthy. Amid Russell's deprived childhood was a period living with her attentive and loving Aunty Rose. It's unbearable to read about the day she was summoned back to her troubled parents, but perhaps that little love was enough. In some of 20th-century Australia's harshest and bleakest conditions, Nance Russell went on to prove her mettle. **HANNAH SPERBER**