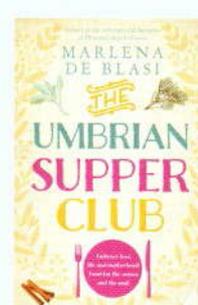
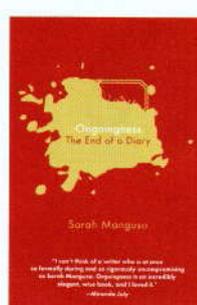
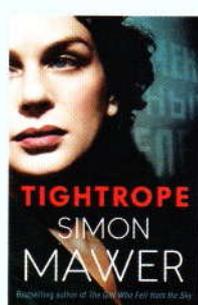
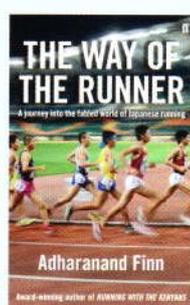
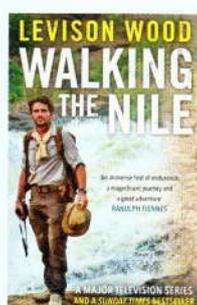
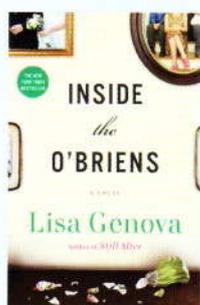


+ REVIEW

international books edited by stacey anyan



INSIDE THE O'BRIENS

LISA GENOVA (SIMON & SCHUSTER, \$32.99)

In her debut novel *Still Alice*, neuroscientist-turned-author Lisa Genova focused on Alzheimer's. This time around, it's Huntington's disease, a cruel affliction that strips sufferers of motor skills, gives them, at best, 10 years to live and has a 50/50 chance of being passed onto offspring. Joe O'Brien is a blue-collar Boston cop with a wife, four kids and a comfortable life. He "doesn't do doctors". But when Joe starts accidentally punching people, slurring words and flying into rages, he's diagnosed with Huntington's. Even worse than Joe's slide into hell is the way his grown-up kids struggle with their possible genetic fate, which is at the centre of this tragic, but never mawkish, novel. You'll have the tissue box on lockdown. **SHARON STEPHENSON**

WALKING THE NILE
LEVISON WOOD (SIMON & SCHUSTER, \$32.99)

Former British paratrooper Levison Wood walked the 4250 miles from the (disputed) source of the Nile in Rwanda to its Mediterranean mouth.

It took nine months and he traversed six countries. While much of the scenery and wildlife was spectacular, the socio-political conditions he and his guides encountered showed how tumultuous the recent history of many African nations has been. This book accompanies a television series but, unlike travel adventure shows that feature the likes of Michael Palin or Billy Connolly, this is much more contemplative and free of constant witticisms. Undoubtedly that is a reflection of the astonishing trek, one that was physically and mentally exhausting and fraught with uncertainty from day to day. As Wood said on completing the journey in Egypt, "I was only half here. The rest of me was scattered back across Africa." **MATT ELLIOTT**

THE WAY OF THE RUNNER: A JOURNEY INTO THE FABLED WORLD OF JAPANESE RUNNING
ADHARANAND FINN (ALLEN & UNWIN, \$35)

"When they pull on the tasuki [sash], it's like a switch is flipped," writes Adharanand Finn of a Japanese form of relay racing called ekiden. "They

have the nation watching. They run like they will never run again." Finn has produced a really good book, powered along by the fact he's a pretty good runner himself, as well as author of the award-winning book *Running with Kenyans*. He delves into mind and spirit as much as into sport, ranging all the way from determined school kids to monks who run a thousand marathons. In doing so, he throws light on the extraordinary depth in endurance running in Japan where, for example, one 2013 half-marathon saw 100 finishers beat 65 minutes. **JIM ROBINSON**

TIGHTROPE
SIMON MAWER (HACHETTE, \$37.99)

Man Booker-shortlisted author Simon Mawer delivers another first-rate novel of espionage, this time following the post-war years of spy Marian Sutro, the subject of his last book. Captured and tortured by the Nazis in France in 1943 before being sent to a death camp, Sutro returns to an empty existence in post-war England haunted by guilt and self-doubt. Inevitably, she is drawn into the emerging tensions of the Cold War and begins a high-stakes

chess game with the Russians, trading secrets about atomic science. Mawer's dreary London, increasingly embroiled in paranoia and distrust, and the lingering physical and psychological effects of war are evocatively painted in this masterful, taut novel.

REBECCA TANSLEY

ONGOINGNESS:
THE END OF A DIARY
SARAH MANGUSO (GRAYWOLF PRESS, \$27.95, WHITCOULLS/AMAZON)

New Yorker writer George W.S. Trow coined the word "ongoingness" to refer to the mental health issues that increasingly plagued his career. Here, Sarah Manguso borrows it to sum up a meditation on her borderline obsessive daily diary-keeping. The birth of her first child brought about the death of Manguso's diary, a 25-year habit cultivated so "I could say I was truly paying attention. Experience in itself wasn't enough." In letting go of her vice, she reflects on its existence with elegant prose, dry wit and a knack for not sounding like a complete navel gazer. This tome is slim – more so than the nearly million-words-long diary itself – but its refreshing brevity allows