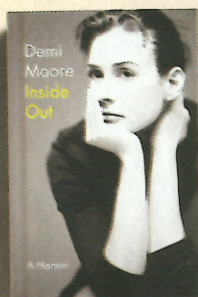


Memoir



Other People's Houses, Hilary McPhee, MUP

This is the second volume of writer and publisher Hilary McPhee's memoirs, but it works in isolation and is engrossing. Hilary's story starts with a former school hockey teammate calling her out of the blue with a curious message. Hilary may hear from someone in Amman, Jordan about a writing project. At the time Hilary was bruised in the wake of her marriage break up and was uncharacteristically enticed by the prospect of flying to the Middle East, which then came her way. She was to write the memoir of Prince Hussan. Only when she gets to Amman, she discovers that despite liking the Prince, persuading him to open his life in print is near impossible. Honest and fascinating.



INSIDE OUT by Demi Moore, HarperCollins

Demi Moore's painfully candid autobiography fills in a good deal of the blanks in the makeup of the Hollywood star and thrice-married mum. Both Demi's parents were alcoholics and she says her most magical moment, age five, was when she was in hospital in a bright clean room with "real grown-ups" caring for her when she was diagnosed with a life-threatening kidney condition. Demi's early life from this moment on is a mess – quitting school, leaving home at 16, nude modelling and ending up in rehab. But somehow she managed to shine. In between there's a great deal of heartache which Demi doesn't flinch from in this no-holds-barred read.



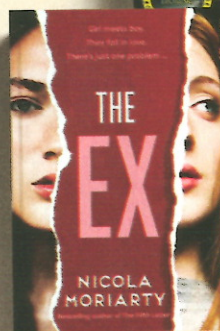
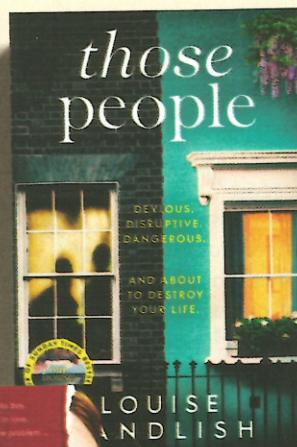
THE MEMORY POOL

by Therese Spruhan, NewSouth
Swimming champ Shane Gould, actor Bryan Brown, award-winning novelist Trent Dalton and actress/director Leah Purcell are just a few of the 28 contributors to this charming compilation of personal stories on the subject of the importance of swimming, surf and beaches to the Aussie dream.

Suspense

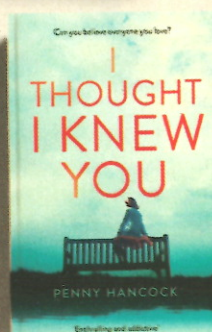
Those People by Louise Candlish, Simon & Schuster

When riff-raff Darren Booth drives his filthy decrepit Toyota car into London suburban Lowland Way, the close-knit tennis-playing community baulked. Most of the Victorian villas were destroyed during the war but Booth's was a bomb too far and battles needed to be fought. First with manners – a meet and greet! But paradise is lost and loud music, violating parking rights and anger escalate into a horrific crime early one Saturday. The residents close ranks: Booth did it. But the police don't agree. "I see who you think you are, but I know you're no better than me," warns Booth.



THE EX by Nicola Moriarty, HarperCollins

Nurse Georgia finishes her Friday shift to meet Tinder-date Brett. But after two very expensive cocktails it's clear she's been stood up. When two drunken guys crowd her, a third guy – Luke – steps in. They share a drink and she goes home feeling "pretty Disney", until his ex emerges.



I THOUGHT I KNEW YOU

by Penny Hancock, Pan Macmillan
Nothing about Saul, 16, fits in the world. Mum, teacher Holly, worries yet husband Pete, a psychotherapist, says he's just searching for an identity. But when Holly's friend Jules says that Saul has raped her daughter, Holly is floored. Does she believe her child or her friend?

UNDER CURRENTS

by Nora Roberts, Hachette
With its sweet rose garden, two faux turrets and three stories of brown brick, Dr Graham Bigelow's European-style property exuded wealth and style – right down to the Mercedes SUV, mountain bikes and ski equipment stacked in the tidy garage. But nervy wife Eliza and children, sulky Zane and obedient Britt – five and three respectively – hide secrets behind the imposing family's door on Lakeview Terrace. Respected Dr Bigelow is an unpredictable abusive brute. And Christmas is the time, the litmus for violence.

