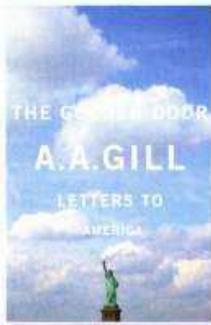




what's happening

THIS MONTH'S BEST {BOOKS} ART • THEATRE • DANCE • TV

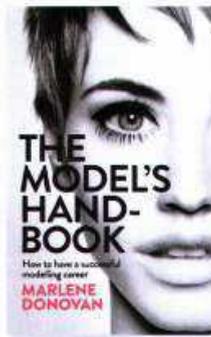
{book club choices}



The Golden Door: Letters To America

A. A. Gill (Orion, \$32.99)

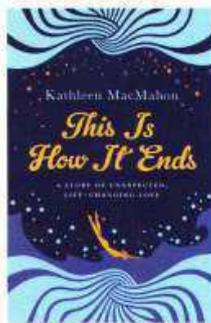
A. A. Gill is a quirky British columnist with a comical, yet caustic wit. In this collection of essays, he gives his take on all things American in the last three decades of the 20th century. This is a wonderful read for those who enjoy a twisted intellectual's view on the world. There's the macabre story of Topsy the Indian elephant in "Sparks", while in "Speeches", Gill reveals the last word US president Abraham Lincoln ever heard was "sockdologising" (while watching the play *Our American Cousin* when John Wilkes Booth shot him on April 14, 1865). It's a fluid stream of consciousness, filled with fascinating tidbits. Read it.



The Model's Hand-Book

Marlene Donovan (Viking, \$29.95)

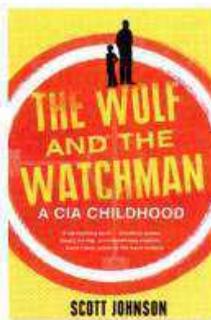
Ever dreamt of being Australia's next top model? This handy guide offers an entertaining insight into the industry. Whether you're truly ready to strut the catwalk, or just dream about it in high definition, you'll discover all that glitters is not always gold through the eyes of Donovan, a former model and agent. You can learn how to tell if you're getting scouted or scammed; tips on looking and acting the part; how to sort out a portfolio, network, achieve "model behaviour" and "practise your moods and looks". It's a fun read for wannabe models and fashion voyeurs. The message is: don't just dream it, do it!



This Is How It Ends

Kathleen MacMahon (Little, Brown, \$29.99)

Scoring a whopping advance, this debut, dark, tragi-comic novel is set in 2008 Dublin as the GFC kicks off. A life-changing romantic connection is the focus of this cleverly woven story, which will tug at your heartstrings. Bruno, a middle-aged American banker, is visiting Ireland to research his family tree and perhaps even an unexpected new life when he meets a fascinating local, Addie, an unemployed architect. Both are grieving their difficult pasts, yet are open to discovering their own happy-ever-after in this delightful love story, spliced with the harsh realities of modern life. A gripping yet intriguing read.



The Wolf And The Watchman

Scott Johnson (Scribe, \$29.95)

When teenager Scott Johnson discovered his dad had been living a double life as a CIA spy, his view of the world changed forever. Then, when his father asked him to lie to protect his secret, his childhood ended. In his very personal memoir, this former war correspondent paints a moving and colourful picture. Based around a complicated father-son relationship and their life while based in exotic locations, such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Mexico City, this alluring coming-of-age tale is a fascinating read about a son's search for the infallible truth, while unravelling his father's murky past.