



BOOKSHOP

Thuy On

TOURISM



THE EDGE OF BALI

Inez Baranay
Transit Lounge, \$29.95

First published 20 years ago it's a testament to the timeless nature of Inez Baranay's stories that this novel isn't particularly dated.

The Indonesian island remains a popular holiday destination and it's the tourist perspective that Baranay's interested in exploring. The narrative, which follows three Westerners, skates on the edge of Bali without venturing into the local mindset.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY



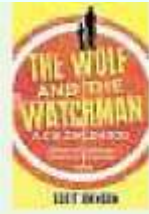
THE YALDA CROSSING

Noel Beddoe, UQP, \$32.95

Historical re-creations (amalgams of fact and fiction) are becoming a publishing trend. *The Yalda Crossing* is an example, with Noel Beddoe bringing to light

a little-known event in Australia's settler history: the bloody skirmishes in central-western New South Wales involving the Wiradjuri people. However, while dramatising another instance of genocidal warfare against a local Aboriginal tribe is worthy, the pacing and delivery are sluggish. Beddoe takes too long to set up the story and it's not until late in the book that the attacks/retaliations occur.

MEMOIR



THE WOLF AND THE WATCHMAN: A CIA CHILDHOOD

Scott Johnson,
Scribe, \$29.95

This is a fascinating and beautifully written memoir of a boy and his father (a spy who loved him). Scott Johnson's life was steeped in lies, necessary protection if your dad is an intelligence officer. His father's many postings meant "geographical transience", which contributed to the child Johnson's discombobulated state; when he later becomes a foreign correspondent, their relationship is further complicated as he wonders about the stress of keeping secrets.