



Marie Claire
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books



REVIEWS

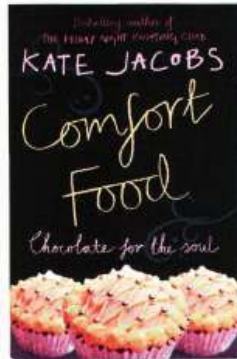
by Kathy Buchanan

The Young Widow's Book Of Home Improvement

Virginia Lloyd (UQP, \$32.95)

It would have been easy for Virginia Lloyd to invite pity or sympathy by sharing her tragic story of love and death. Instead, this sweetly compact and honest memoir is a very readable story of a Sydney woman who, at 32, finally finds and then loses the love of her life. In 2002, the writer meets John at a friend's dinner party. He's kind, funny, attentive, generous and thoughtful. He is also dying of cancer. Lloyd's honesty and simple writing style is deeply compelling. Their all-too-brief period of happiness inevitably makes for a tear-jerker, but the heartbreak is ameliorated by Lloyd's account of her home renovations, which distract her from her loss. Who would have guessed that fixing a bad case of rising damp could help repair this young widow's broken spirit?

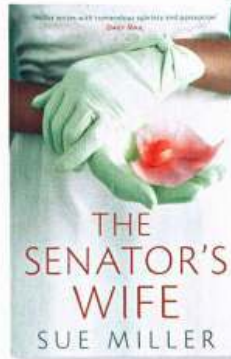
To order this book, call 1300 554 523.



Comfort Food

Kate Jacobs (Hodder & Stoughton, \$32.99)

Kate Jacobs's follow-up to her debut novel, *The Friday Night Knitting Club*, will have fans begging for more. At 50, Gus is a self-made woman whose two gorgeous, but sometimes troublesome, daughters are even more important to her than reviving her flagging cooking TV show. Somehow this plucky widow has to keep her family together, fight off a sexy Spanish cooking rival and, after 18 years, finally take a second shot at love. To order this book, call 1300 554 523.



The Senator's Wife

Sue Miller (Bloomsbury, \$32.95)

The best-selling author of *While I Was Gone* returns with a richly character-driven novel about two neighbours living in New England. At first, the two women find each other a welcome distraction, with Meri fascinated by the depths of Delia's relationship. However, as Meri's curiosity grows, it threatens their friendship. Although it begins slowly, this story builds to become a dramatic and intense ride. To order this book, call 1300 554 523. ▶

ANTHONY ADAMSON



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Confessions Of A Fallen Angel

Ronan O'Brien
(Sceptre, \$32.99)

Ten-year-old Charlie is the cheeky narrator of this quirky debut novel about life after death, pure love and destiny. After a close call with his own mortality, Charlie discovers he has acquired the ability to foresee the deaths of the people closest to him. There is some heavy-going Irish vernacular, but the writing is very original, humorous, and incredibly tender-hearted.

To order this book, call 1300 554 523.



MUM'S THE WORD Celebrate Mother's Day with these poignant and practical books ...

1 Inspirational
44 Things: A Year Of Life At Home

Kirsty Gunn
(Atlantic Books, \$39.95)
A wonderfully offbeat and lyrical celebration of motherhood. Kirsty Gunn, 44, has created a charming scrapbook overflowing with thoughts and memories, marking a single year of her life as a mother.



3 Novel
Things I Want My Daughters To Know

Elizabeth Noble
(Michael Joseph, \$32.95)
Get ready to bawl! This heart-rending novel is filled with poignant letters from Barbara, who has decided to prepare for her death by ensuring her four beloved daughters live life to the fullest.



2 Memoir
Blue Sky July

Nia Wyn (Penguin, \$22.95)
Joy, courage and pain are inextricably linked in this memoir about a mother's unconditional love for her son, who suffers from a brain injury. This book will leave you marvelling at the unique relationship between mother and child.



4 Handbook
Things I Wish My Mother Had Told Me

Lucia van der Post
(John Murray, \$39.95)
Have fun with this very glam guide to life. Lucia van der Post, one of the UK's fashion elite, advises on everything from how to entertain guests to creating your own capsule wardrobe.



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