

“WE CAN CLOSE OUR EYES AND THESE PICTURES COME TO LIFE IN THE FOOTY ALBUMS OF OUR MINDS.”

(IMAGE FROM OUR GREAT GAME. RE-PRODUCED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE SLATTERY MEDIA GROUP)

## REVIEW\ BOOKS

# Great game, great book



**WHERE** would Aussie rules footy be without the black-and-white photo? From the early 1900s, as cameras became more sophisticated, photos played a vital role in representing all that is great – and often none too pretty – about football. Most Saturdays, *The Herald's* final edition would feature a fantastic

mark on its front page. Kids collected swap cards with their heroes' smiling images on the front. After a premiership victory, the winning team's full-page shot – reproduced in newspapers – became a collector's item to stick on your bedroom wall and admire lovingly over summer until the next footy season started.

In the mid-1990s, I served a stint as editor of the *Football Record*. The AFL's pictorial archive was a treasure chest in which I could often be found rummaging through old boxes and faded manila folders. It was important to us that the game's rich past be honoured in our weekly publication. Old photos of team line-ups, game days, players, coaches and officials, and the fans who make it great, featured regularly.

Over the years, various publications – and some individual club history books – have used these photographs and displayed them well. But the focus was always on a theme, not the actual images themselves.

*Our Great Game*, produced by publisher and former sports editor Geoff Slattery, acknowledges the footy image as art form. As the AFL's official publisher, Slattery has access to a range of pictorial sources and archives.

The result is a beautiful book that honors the game, and also its photographers – many of whom just happened to be at the right ground, squatting behind the right boundary line, and watching the right player at the right time.

Snap! History is captured, processed, published, and remembered. Haydn Bunton snr flying through the air with the Big V on his puffed-out chest, toes pointed like a ballerina's. Carlton's Alex Jesaulenko and that famous mark during the 1970 grand final against Collingwood. The sickening sight of Magpie John Greening on a stretcher after a clash with St Kilda's Jimmy O'Dea. Nicky Winmar lifting his St Kilda jumper to show the crowd at Victoria Park the colour of his skin. We can close our eyes and these pictures come to life in the footy albums of our minds.

Now they are in a book, to remember always. And they are not only AFL highlights. Photos taken at country footy matches, SANFL games from years ago and Edwardian-era fans in the grandstand are also featured. These pictures, writes Slattery in his introduction, “have never had iconic status, have never carried bylines, but demonstrate so powerfully how our game has always been part of our soul, in every part of the country, at every level we have played”.

Like a Scanlens footy card, *Our Great Game* is a collector's item worth securing. \

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» **OUR GREAT GAME \$99.95** (Slattery Media)

## BOOK MARK



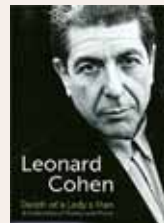
“Just like everyone else, I've been making my way through the Stieg Larsson *Millennium* series. The books blend shades of good old-fashioned detective work with modern-day women's rights, and interesting Swedish characters whose names sound like an Ikea catalogue. Special mention, also, to *Mr Rosenblum's List* by Natasha Solomons. Such a nice, neat and happy read.” – **ANDREA WARD, CO-OWNER OF MCM STUDIO CLOTHING**



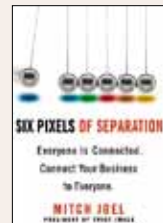
**THIS BODY OF DEATH**  
by Elizabeth George  
\$32.99  
(Hodder Headline)



**THE BOOK OF EMMETT**  
by Deborah Forster  
\$23.95  
(Vintage)



**DEATH OF A LADY'S MAN: A COLLECTION OF POETRY AND PROSE**  
by Leonard Cohen  
\$29  
(Andrew Deutsch)



**SIX PIXELS OF SEPARATION**  
by Mitch Joel  
\$34  
(Business Plus)



**WALNUT WINE AND TRUFFLE GROVE: CULINARY ADVENTURES IN THE DORDOGNE**  
by Kimberley Lovato  
\$39.99  
(Running Press)

**MYSTERY** Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley is still on compassionate leave in Cornwall and Isabelle Ardery is in charge. But an investigation into the murder of a woman found in a London cemetery requires Lynley's expertise, and that of his team. We had wondered whether George's Inspector Lynley mysteries would survive the death of one of its main characters. (“Her death,” George writes on her web page, referring to Lynley's wife, Helen, “unlike the death of any other character, had the potential to affect more greatly the characters left alive. Her death was like a hand grenade thrown into their midst.”) Thankfully, the stories just get better.

**FICTION** Two weeks ago we were very excited to see that Melbourne writer Deborah Forster's debut novel was announced as a shortlist contender for the lucrative Prime Minister's Literary Awards, to be announced later this year. This is a masterful work about a volatile and abusive father whose inner humanity and occasional warmth offer his children a chance to love him, and find strength in that love. The book was published last year, but its success as a Miles Franklin Award shortlisted work, and now the publicity of the PM's award, is bringing more readers to its pages. A good thing, too.

**POETRY** Speaking selfishly, the collapse of Leonard Cohen's financial world five years ago had an upside: it forced the 70-something poet and songwriter to go back on the road. And what a triumph his concerts have been, proving that Cohen has lost none of his magic and is still able to woo existing and new audiences. This new little hardback is a must-have for Cohen fans who love the written word as much as the voice and music of his work. Dim the lights, light your incense and read out loud to the person you desire.

**MARKETING** Mitch Joel is the president of Canadian marketing agency Twist Image. He has written a blog on marketing, communication, advertising and information flow. In his first business book, he takes the “six degrees of separation” theory – that people are connected by fewer than six links in a chain – and declares that in the digital world “there are no degrees of separation between you and your customer. The internet and many online social networks and new media tools have taken the degrees away and we're down to pixels.” Chapters with titles such as “I Google You ... Just as You Google Me”, “Digital Darwinism” and “Tribal Knowledge” will lure you on.

**TRAVEL** This gem of a cooking-cum-travel book honours the picturesque Dordogne region of south-west France, its cuisine, its cooks, the suppliers and growers, the restaurants, markets and wineries. But we admit at first glance we were uncertain about its capacity to deliver: American food and travel books can sometimes come across as a bit twee and formulaic. Pleasingly, not this one. Travel journalist Kimberley Lovato and Florida chef Laura Schmalhorst deliver a beautiful guide and travel diary to the Dordogne region. And the recipes have guts and flair. For the price, it's a brilliant buy.