



Stay in

Read ■ Watch ■ Drink



BADLANDS

Liam Houlihan (Victory Books)
\$32.99 ★★★

Journalist Houlihan gives every state a look-in with this collection of easy-to-read true but nasty tales of people doing unspeakable things to each other. There is even a US killing with an Aussie connection. In most instances the perpetrators are caught, but not all, and those are the most intriguing.



TV

BEREFT

Chris Womersley (Scribe)
\$32.95 ★★★★★

Quinn Walker returns from the Great War to the home he fled as a teen more than a decade ago, accused of murdering his sister. Womersley's gothic-tinged portrait of isolated, rural Australia devastated by war and flu is mesmerising. If the book has one tiny weakness it's the dialogue; Womersley aims to recreate the idiom of the time and mostly succeeds, but occasionally it seems slightly artificial.



AM

VAMPIRE DIARIES: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

Warner Bros (MA15+), **\$59.95** ★★★★★

This is *Dawson's Creek* meets *Gossip Girl* but with fangs. And it's not just because of undead-heartthrob brothers Stefan (Paul Wesley) and Damon (Ian Somerhalder), who fight over doe-eyed human Elena (Nina Dobrev). It's no *True Blood* but it's bloody addictive.



NS

NCIS LOS ANGELES: SEASON 1

Paramount (M) **\$54.65** ★★★★★

The first season of *NCIS LA* is worth checking out for the same great storylines fans of the original *NCIS* have come to love. The unrealistic technology used in the show is laughable, and the female star needs to try harder, but otherwise it's definitely worth sticking with.



JM

MARGARET RIVER CLASSIC WHITE 2007

Evans and Tate, **\$20** ★★★★★

There are a few things you can do with \$20: see a movie with a choc top, go wild in the \$2 shop, play roulette. If it were my \$20, I'd invest in a bottle of this classic white. More entertaining than a rom-com, more value than a pile of junk toys and better odds than red 13, it's light, crisp and super easy to knock back.



CA

■ **Reviews by Tony Vella, Andy Murdoch, Nadia Salemme, Jodie Munro O'Brien and Cathy Anderson**