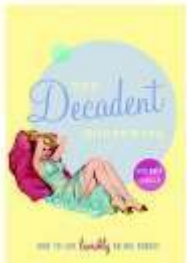


BOOKS

**WITH
 AMANDA
 HORSWILL**

BOOK OF THE WEEK



THE DECADENT HOUSEWIFE

Rosemary Counter. Wakefield Press. \$24.95

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

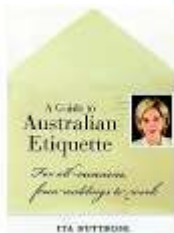
You're a stay-at-home mum (or dad), up to your armpits in dirty nappies and squished-in-the-carpet WeetBix. Then husband/significant partner comes home, shaking his/her head at the mess, and says "What HAVE you been doing all day?" The retort? No, don't yell. Take a deep sigh to expel the anger, hand

the baby over and while he/she scoops up the pile of dirty socks, you scoop up this book for a little mental circuitbreaker. *The Decadent Housewife* pokes fun at those who think staying at home is easy by taking the (mis)concept to its most sarcastic extreme. Covering topics such as The Superficial Clean, The Lost Art of Idleness and What did you do today: Perfecting your Alibi, it seems designed for a quick pick-me-up-put-me down dose of silliness.

A GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN ETIQUETTE

Some say this kind of guide to living is old hat. But in this anything-goes society of sexting and defamation by Tweet, maybe it makes sense to consult a rule book from time to time. While the idea might seem antiquated, the advice is not. Buttrose recommends that teens carry condoms, sparking outcry from a rival etiquette expert: "If they are, then they are asking for it." I know which book I'll be recommending. I'm on Team Ita.

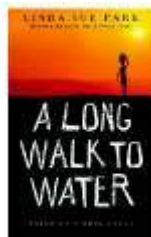
Ita Buttrose
 Penguin.
 \$29.95



A LONG WALK TO WATER

This book says it's suitable for readers aged nine or older, but it is a beautiful read for anyone looking for a touch of humanity. Two stories are contained within – one based on the true journey of Sudanese boy Salva who ran and ran from civil war; the other a fictional account of Nya and her eternal quest for water. Salva's story will break hearts. Alone, he had to face horrors that are almost unimaginable. It has complex themes, cleverly told and universally understood.

Linda Sue Park
 UQP. \$16.95

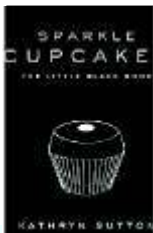




**SPARKLE
CUPCAKES**

Have cupcakes had their day in the fickle world of food fashion? Perhaps, but as long as they taste the way they do, and look as cute as they do, there's no denying their place in any cooking repertoire. This little black book of cupcakes is just that - decadent treats that challenge anyone not to want to bake them. Sick of seeing red velvet cupcakes? Why not try black velvet ones, that glisten with dark chocolate ganache.

*Kathryn
Sutton
New Holland,
\$29.95*



**SHANNON BENNETT'S
NEW YORK**

OK, so you might not be in a position to actually go to New York, but there's nothing wrong with a little page-bound dreaming. Bennett's compilation of eateries in New York provides a fascinating insight into this amazing city's culture. And the recipes sprinkled throughout provides an instant hit of NYC - think Wagyu burgers and waldorf salad. Bennett is owner-chef at Melbourne's swanky Vue de monde and has also written a similar guide to Paris.

*Shannon
Bennett
Miegunyah
Press. \$44.99*

