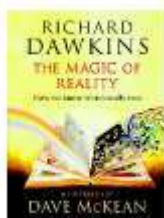




BOOK REVIEWS

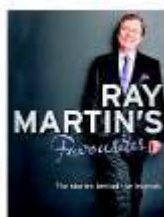
THE MAGIC OF REALITY Richard Dawkins (Random House, \$39.95)

The *For Dummies* series of books allowed the average reader an insight into a whole range of complex topics. Richard Dawkins' new book, illustrated by Dave McKean, does the same. Dawkins covers many difficult topics here, from evolutionary biology – the renowned atheist's area of expertise – through chemistry, gravitational pull, the science of earthquakes and even the question of why bad things happen. Facts are wrapped in simple stories for the layman.



RAY MARTIN'S FAVOURITES Ray Martin (Victory Books, \$49.99)

Ray Martin has been on television for more than 40 years as a journalist and presenter on the ABC and Channel 9 and in that time he has interviewed many stars. The best are here, along with some funny asides that didn't make it on to the screen. One of the more revealing chats is with Dustin Hoffman, star of *The Graduate* and *Rain Man*. Hoffman speaks of his fiery libido, which has not slowed with age. He even tries to chat up a producer afterwards.



BLUE NIGHTS Joan Didion (HarperCollins, \$27.99)

Pioneering American journalist and author Joan Didion wrote her 2005 memoir *The Year of Magical Thinking* after her husband died of a heart attack. The book was a major success and was adapted for the stage by the Sydney Theatre Company and others. *Blue Nights* follows on from that book. In it she focuses on her life as a mother following the death of her daughter Quintana. If anyone can make such an examination of grief thought-provoking it's Didion.



HONEY MONEY Catherine Hakim (Penguin, \$29.95)

Attractive people are better off – financially, socially, in their careers and in most other endeavours. This is the idea behind *Honey Money*, an examination of erotic capital. In this book Hakim outlines how erotic capital works, how it develops from a young age, the way it differs across cultures and how it affects everything from relationships to the worlds of business and politics. Hakim says it is important we understand how it can be used to make relations between the sexes fairer.

