



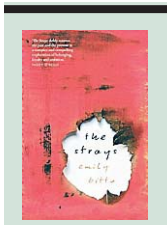
AUGUST 17, 2014

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BOOKSHOP

retirees and negotiating timezones via Skype. A timely and insightful read, and the calibre of writers is impressive.

by Thuy On



THE STRAYS
Emily Bitto
Affirm Press,
\$24.99

When Lily befriends Eva, one of the daughters of a famous avant-garde painter Evan Trentham and his glamorous wife Helena, she is besotted with the whole “big, noisy quixsilver family”. She becomes one of the strays and later, more artists join the rambling estate and it becomes a commune for like-minded iconoclasts. All is well until there’s a major fall-out. A period drama set in the 1930s, this debut novel offers a fascinating look at the artistic temperament.



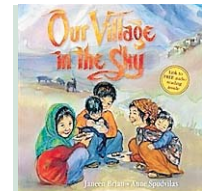
ON THE ROAD ... WITH KIDS
John Ahern
Pan Macmillan,
\$29.99

After quitting his job, renting his house and storing his possessions, John Ahern took charge of a seven-berth motor home and piled his wife and two children in it for a year-long European vacation. The escapist fantasy quickly became grounded in more basic demands. In between the many stresses of this nomadic adventure he managed to reassess his priorities, “noticing things I never would have when previously hurtling through life’s daily’s activities.” Not really a travelogue, this extended road trip deals more with small-scale campervan dramas than the sights of the 30-odd countries travelled through.



GRIFFITH REVIEW 45: THE WAY WE WORK
Edited by Julianne Schultz
Text Publishing,
\$27.99

The 21st century workplace in Australia is an ever-evolving landscape: there are more part-time roles, unpaid internships and obsolete jobs. We are working longer and in more fractured, multi-positions. And yet, other factors such as the gender/wage gap remain stubbornly stagnant. The *Griffith Review* devotes this edition to all manner of modern work practices, with topics including the “Janus face of flexibility”, the plight of self-funded



OUR VILLAGE IN THE SKY
Janeen Brian and Anne Spudvilas
Allen & Unwin,
\$24.99

It could only be a good thing for children in first-world countries to see how their counterparts live elsewhere and this picture book does exactly that, focusing as it does on a remote village in the Himalayas. It’s school holidays though the children still have chores, whether it’s washing clothes, tending to livestock or fetching water. But they make their own fun: playing with ladders and stones and using a water tub as a drum. The children are amazingly cheerful despite the many tasks they undertake.