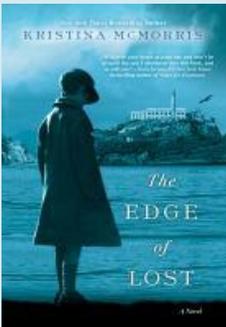


### Spinifex & sunflowers / Avan Judd Stallard

Nick Harris has been drifting for years -- until the day he finds himself amid red dirt and razor wire, a refugee-prison guard in a detention centre. Nick is no crusader and no bleeding-heart. He's just a man in debt who needs a job. Time passes slowly behind the wire, no matter who you are. To distract themselves, the asylum seekers tell Nick about their lives and cultures, and the families they have left behind. They steal from him with good humour, and swear at him with bad. Nick breaks all the rules: slacking off when he guards the cordial machine, swimming with crocodiles, brawling with locals, romancing workmates. And then there is the cardinal sin -- becoming friends with the detainees. The novel is a realistic window into the hidden world of immigration detention centres, drawn from the experience of a former guard. It is one man's vision, looking through the wire at the people locked inside our desert prisons, and looking out at the people who put them there.



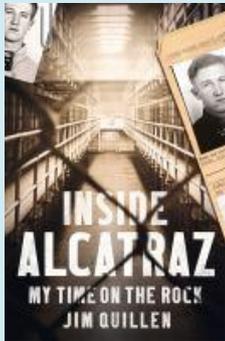
### The edge of lost / Kristina McMorris

On a cold night in October 1937, searchlights cut through the darkness around Alcatraz. A prison guard's only daughter one of the youngest civilians who lives on the island has gone missing. Tending the warden's greenhouse, convicted bank robber Tommy Capello waits anxiously. Only he knows the truth about the little girl's whereabouts, and that both of their lives depend on the search's outcome. Almost two decades earlier and thousands of miles away, a young boy named Shanley Keagan ekes out a living as an aspiring vaudevillian in Dublin pubs. Talented and shrewd, Shan dreams of shedding his dingy existence and finding his real father in America. The chance finally comes to cross the Atlantic, but when tragedy strikes, Shan must summon all his ingenuity to forge a new life in a volatile and foreign world. Skillfully weaving these two stories, Kristina McMorris delivers a compelling novel that moves from Ireland to New York to San Francisco Bay. As her finely crafted characters discover the true nature of loyalty, sacrifice, and betrayal, they are forced to confront the lies we tell and believe in order to survive.



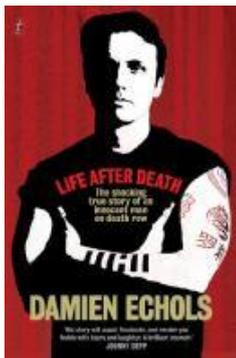
### The quiet war on asylum / Tracey Barnett

Why would a country that has never had a boatload of asylum arrivals in modern history suddenly legislate for mass detention? Geographically isolated and previously a world leader in fair treatment of refugees, New Zealand has abruptly changed tack. Treading across the refugee camps of Burma and Thailand, to Australia's detention centres and back to New Zealand, columnist Tracey Barnett looks hard at this controversial new policy. She speaks to asylum seekers, refugees, NGO workers and migrants - people on the move and on the ground. Their lives and stories reveal a reality far more complex than the political rhetoric, and one that questions just how fair and ethical New Zealand really is on the world stage today.



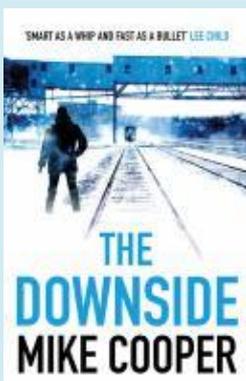
### **Inside Alcatraz : my time on the Rock / Jim Quillen**

Each day we saw the outside world in all its splendour, and each day that view served as a reminder that we had wasted and ruined our lives. Jim Quillen, number 586: a runaway, problem child and petty thief, was jailed several times before his 20th birthday. In August 1942 after another botched burglary attempt, he was arrested on the run and sentenced to imprisonment on Alcatraz island. Through his many adventures across the US landscape, Jim Quillen reminds us of the stark reality the Depression years brought, and the unforgiving rule by which society and the State punished its people, what happened in 1946 during the bloody riot between the inmates and prison guards. As a personal friend of most of the participants involved in the 46 hour stand-off, Jim Quillen breaks down the myths of Bob Stroud 'The Birdman' and tells us in sanguine detail what really happened that day. Imprisoned for 10 years Jim Quillen reflects on life, and shares his journey of surviving Alcatraz; a place designed to 'break inmates physically, mentally and spiritually' and its cruel realities, dangerous alliances and the hard road that led him back to freedom.



### **Life after death : the shocking true story of an innocent man on death row / Damien Echols**

In 1993 three teenagers, Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Miskelley Jr, were arrested and charged with the murders of three eight-year-old boys in West Memphis, Arkansas. The ensuing trial was rife with inconsistencies, false testimony and superstition. Echols was accused of, among other things, practising witchcraft and satanic rituals a result of the 'satanic panic' prevalent in the media at the time. Baldwin and Miskelley were sentenced to life in prison. Echols, deemed the ringleader, was sentenced to death. He was eighteen years old. In a shocking reversal of events, all three were suddenly released in August 2011. This is Damien Echols' story in full: from abuses by prison guards and wardens, to descriptions of inmates and deplorable living conditions, to the incredible reserves of patience, spirituality, and perseverance that kept him alive and sane for nearly two decades. Echols also writes about his complicated and painful childhood. Like Dead Man Walking, Life After Death is destined to be a classic.



### **The downside / Mike Cooper**

In an age of cybercrime, Finn is old school: he's never stolen anything weighing less than five tons. Now, fresh out of prison and flat broke, he's got a line on his biggest job ever. Cracking the most heavily guarded private vault in North America? No problem. Hauling \$50 million of precious metal out past guards, dozens of policemen and an armored SWAT battalion? Even easier. But navigating the betrayals of double-crossing partners, the machinations of a hedge-fund billionaire gone bad, and the ambiguous proposals of a woman with her own agenda? Finn is going to have to figure out the downside.