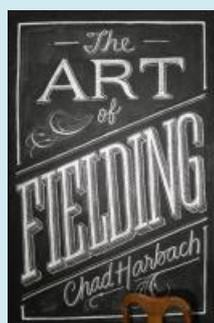




Girl Runner / Carrie Snyder

As a young runner, Aganetha Smart defied everyone's expectations to win a gold medal for Canada in the 1928 Olympics. It was a revolutionary victory, because this was the first Games in which women could compete in track events and they did so despite opposition. But now Aganetha Smart is in a nursing home, and nobody realizes that the frail centenarian was once a bold pioneer.



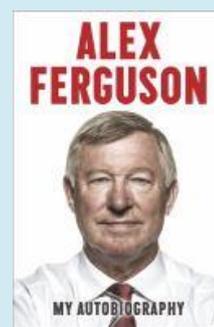
The Art of Fielding / Chad Harbach

At Westish College, a small school on the shore of Lake Michigan, baseball star Henry Skrimshander seems destined for big-league stardom. But when a routine throw goes disastrously off course, the fates of five people are upended.



Playing for Pizza / John Grisham

A short novel about a fallen American football star who can no longer get work in the National Football League and whose agent, as a last resort, signs a deal for him to play for the Parma Panthers, in Parma, Italy. The quarterback's move to a small city in a foreign land leads to a series of cultural misadventures.



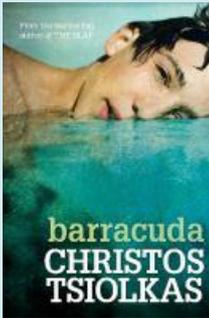
My Autobiography / Sir Alex Ferguson

Sir Alex Ferguson announced his retirement as manager of Manchester United after 27 years in the role. He has gone out in a blaze of glory, with United winning the Premier League for the 13th time, and he is widely considered to be the greatest manager in the history of British football. Over the past four years, Sir Alex has been reflecting on and jotting down the highlights of his extraordinary career and in his book he will reveal his amazing story as it unfolded, from his very early days in the tough shipyard areas of Govan.



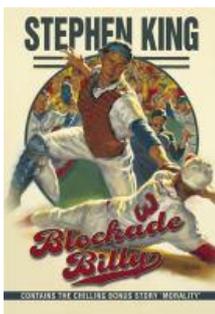
Little Warrior (Don't Tell Me You're Afraid) / Giuseppe Catozzella; translated by Anne Milano Appel

Little Warrior is based on the life of Samia Omar, a girl who grows up in war-torn Somalia determined to be a world-class sprinter. She sleeps with a photo of Mo Farah by her bed, trains hard despite the violence and prejudice around her, and makes the national team. But with the war encroaching on their family, her sister is forced to make the treacherous journey to Europe by boat. Samia, scared for her life and for her dreams, decides to join her, which means putting her life in the hands of traffickers



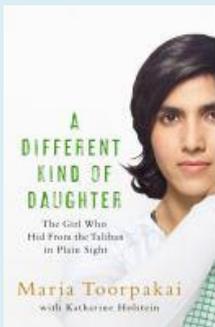
Barracuda / Christos Tsiolkas

Tender and brutal and blazingly brilliant, the new novel from the acclaimed author of the international bestseller 'The Slap' takes an unflinching look at modern Australia - at our hopes and dreams, our friendships and our families - and asks what it means to be a good person, and what it takes to become one.



Blockade Billy / Stephen King

Even the most diehard baseball fans don't know the true story of William 'Blockade Billy' Blakely. He may have been the greatest player the game has ever seen, but today no one remembers his name. He was the first - and only - player to have his existence completely removed from the record books. Even his team is long forgotten, barely a footnote in the game's history. Every effort was made to erase any evidence that William Blakely played professional baseball, and with good reason. Blockade Billy had a secret darker than any pill or injection that might cause a scandal in sports today. His secret was much, much worse.



A Different Kind of Daughter: The girl who hid from the Taliban in plain sight / Maria Toorpakai with Katherine Holstein

Maria Toorpakai Wazir has lived her life disguised as a boy, defying the Taliban, in order to pursue her love of sport. Coming second in a national junior weightlifting event for boys, Maria decided to put her future in her own hands by going in disguise. When she discovered squash and was easily beating all the boys, life became more dangerous. Maria shares the story of her long road and eventual triumph, pursuing the sport she loved, defying death threats and following her dream.

Heritage item:

Petone Rugby Football Club, 1885-1959: jubilee souvenir

Also mentioned:

Marathon woman: Running the race to revolutionize women's sports / Kathrine Switzer

Moneyball: The art of winning an unfair game / Michael Lewis

The Illegal / Lawrence Hill

Tana Umaga Up Close: The Autobiography / Tana Umaga with Paul Thomas

Chasing the Cup: My America's Cup journey / Jimmy Spithill with Rob Mundle

The Chase / Christopher Kremmer

Sunrise from the summit: 18 inspiring New Zealand sportswomen share their stories / Michele Cox