

# 'Tis the Season

"DON WE NOW OUR GAY APPAREL..."

## **PUZZLED: STORIES AND CLUES FROM A LIFE LOST IN WORDS**

BY DAVID ASTLE, ALLEN & UNWIN, \$29.99

Have I died and gone to heaven? My life's ambition is to compete in *The New York Times* Crossword Tournament (as if!) — my other passion is stand-up comedy. Now here, in one volume, is the funniest crossword compiler ever, recounting his memoirs. He's a Melbourne man. Find here all the relevant blog authors, specialist websites, hives of gossip plus adventures with eccentrics who blaze on the page.

## **REAL AND REEL: THE EDUCATION OF A FILM OBSESSIVE AND CRITIC**

BY BRIAN McFARLANE, SID HARTA PUBLISHERS, \$29.95

Growing up in the small Victorian town of Nhill in the 1940s McFarlane missed out on major cinematic triumphs. It wasn't until he left home that he discovered his true calling in life: seeing thousands of movies and then teaching others about the film industry. This book covers mainly British and Australian films, including many that we now refer to as 'B Grade'. It's a wholly delightful wander into a world that still rescues young and old from the limitations and annoyances of everyday life.

## **GLORY GIRL**

BY PETER YELDHAM, MICHAEL JOSEPH, \$32.95

Yeldham's gift is to fall in and out of love with his characters, making them that much more real. Set between the world wars, it stars Sarah, a redheaded aviatrix who is out for trophies. Doting Daniel interviews Hitler but his editor spikes the story — "A wannabe dictator? What rubbish!" And the British flying ace who captures Sarah's heart is tried for murder. Never a dull paragraph. \*



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