



Reverend Katz Library

New Book Reviews

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Samuel Graydon, *Einstein in Time and space; A life in 99 particles* BIO EIN

Most of us would agree that Albert Einstein's name is synonymous with "genius" and that his likeness is often used as a shorthand for all scientists, appearing everywhere from cartoons to textbooks. He has become more myth than man. That being the case, how best to capture his essence?

In *Einstein in Time and Space*, talented young science journalist Samuel Graydon answers that question with an illuminating mosaic—99 intriguingly different particles that cumulatively reveal Einstein's contradictory and multitudinous nature. Glimpsed among these shards: a slacker who failed every subject but math, a job seeker who couldn't get hired, a lothario who courted many women, and a charmer who was the life of the party. As brilliant as he was inconsistent, Einstein was simultaneously an avid supporter of the NAACP and the fight for civil rights and someone capable of great prejudice. He was loved by many, known by few, and inspirational to a generation of young physicists. Graydon reveals every corner of Einstein's world: the false reporting that rocketed Einstein to fame nearly overnight, his effect on people he met merely in passing, even the remarkable posthumous journey of the famed physicist's brain.

Entertaining, comforting, bolstering, and shocking, *Einstein in Time and Space* is the unique story of a man who redefined how we view our universe and our place within it.

Freda Hodge, *Survival and sanctuary; testimonies of the Holocaust and life beyond* HOL HOD

When Jewish survivors of the Holocaust arrived in Australia after World War II, they were filled with hope that they could build a new life.

These survivors found themselves in a country not only blessedly far from the chaos of postwar Europe but also on the periphery of the political changes taking place in the West, such as the stirrings of a Cold War. Australia offered the peace so necessary to those who had been through unspeakable tragedy.

With their arrival, Australian Jewish communities would change dramatically. The survivors brought with them Yiddish, the lingua franca of East European Jewry, and their distinct European culture. A new era began as Jewish society developed and Jewish culture flourished in Australia.

Yet these survivors continued to live with their searing memories. They appreciated the sanctuary Australia offered, but their nightmares still haunted them. Many carried with them the scars of their traumatic experiences in the camps and in hiding from the Nazis.

They were never fully free of the ghosts of their terrible suffering under German occupation.

Translated into English for the first time, these seven testimonies provide a window into the experiences of these survivors. Introduced by acclaimed Australian scholar Professor Paul Bartrop, *Survival and Sanctuary* is an exploration of the tension between hope and despair in the aftermath of war, and ultimately a demonstration of the power of the human will.

Evelyn Frybort, (ed) *Memories of Kings Cross; the Jewish migrant experience 1930-1960* HIS FRY

Many books have been written about Kings Cross, and I've always felt that an account of the contribution that Jewish European Immigrants made to the evolving character of this Sydney icon would be a worthy addition.

This anthology is a result of those people who have generously shared their own life experiences or family stories in relation to the vibrant Jewish immigrant community of Kings Cross during the period 1930s – 1960s.

Over the years, I have encountered people in Sydney's Jewish community who have their own memories of their earlier years in Kings Cross. In some cases, it might be memories of stories passed down from parents or grandparents. It might relate to having lived and/or worked there. In many cases, it might be a part of their social life, meeting friends at the many late-night cafes and other entertainment venues.

For this book, the boundaries of Kings Cross include the area from Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay and Darlinghurst to Rushcutters Bay.

Eileen Kramer, *Life keeps me dancing; 108 years well lived, grounded in creativity, adventure and love.* BIO KRA

Eileen Kramer is an Australian dancer, choreographer, artist and writer - a true creative spirit - born in 1914 and still making art at the age of 108.

Eileen Kramer has lived the most extraordinary life. Born just after Australia entered World War I, she embraced creativity and adventure from an early age. She danced and painted murals in Karachi; worked as an artist's model in Paris and London; and learned the twist from Louis Armstrong. In 2013, aged ninety-nine, Eileen returned to Australia. Now, at 108, she is still dancing.

Eileen has led a bold and vibrant life, and to this day she is surrounded by creativity and friendship. She makes the most of every moment and brings beauty and joy to those around her. Here, she shares her inspirational story and wisdom, showing others the gift of the dance of life.

Daniel Silva, *The Collector*; a Gabriel Allon thriller F SIL

In the electrifying new thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Daniel Silva, Gabriel Allon undertakes a search for a stolen Vermeer masterpiece and uncovers a conspiracy that could bring the world to the brink of nuclear Armageddon.

On the morning after the Venice Preservation Society's annual black-tie gala, art restorer and legendary spy Gabriel Allon enters his favourite coffee bar on the island of Murano to find General Cesare Ferrari, the commander of the Art Squad, eagerly awaiting his arrival. The Carabinieri have made a startling discovery in the Amalfi villa of a murdered South African shipping tycoon—a secret vault containing an empty frame and stretcher matching the dimensions of the world's most valuable missing painting. General Ferrari asks Gabriel to quietly track down the artwork before the trail goes cold.

The painting in question is *The Concert* by Johannes Vermeer, one of thirteen works of art stolen from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990. With the help of a most unlikely ally, a beautiful Danish computer hacker and professional thief, Gabriel soon discovers that the painting has changed hands as part of an illicit billion-dollar business deal involving a man code-named the Collector, an energy executive with close ties to the highest levels of Russian power.

The missing masterpiece is the lynchpin of a conspiracy that if successful, could plunge the world into a conflict of apocalyptic proportions. To foil the plot, Gabriel must carry out a daring heist of his own, with millions of lives hanging in the balance.

Elegant, meticulously plotted, and filled with a cast of unforgettable characters, *The Collector* moves swiftly from the graceful canals of Venice to the windswept coast of northern Denmark to CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia—and, finally, to a heart-pounding climax in Russia as current as tomorrow's headlines.