

What were the best books of 2024?

Australia's leading cultural magazine asks thirty-seven commentators and writers

Which Russian novel does **James Ley** describe as 'hands down the wildest release of the year'? Which author makes 'managerialism the stuff of high comedy', according to **Yves Rees**? Which work of Australian fiction has been squatting in **Geordie Williamson's** 'mental real estate' for months? And why does **Julie Janson** nominate only books by Australian female authors this year?

In the December issue, *ABR* features its annual Book of the Year, as nominated by **James Bradley, Shannon Burns, Yves Rees, Geordie Williamson, Frank Bongiorno, Peter Rose, Lynette Russell, Scott Stephens, James Ley, Cassandra Atherton, John Kinsella**, and other contributors.



Nominated titles include:

James by Percival Everett ♦ *Naked* by Andrew Fowler ♦ *Intermezzo* by Sally Rooney ♦ *Chinese Postman* by Brian Castro ♦ *Theory and Practice* by Michelle de Krester ♦ *Travelling to Tomorrow* by Yves Rees ♦ *36 Ways of Writing a Vietnamese Poem* by Nam Lee ♦ *Excitable Boy: Essays on Risk* by Dominic Gordon ♦ *Vortex* by Rodney Hall

In the lead review of *On Xi Jinping* by **Kevin Rudd**, Neil Thomas says our former prime minister has digested thousands of pages of *Xi Jinping Thought* 'so that you don't have to', identifying a new '**red thread**' running through Chinese politics.

Frank Bongiorno praises **Robert Manne's** memoir, noting that his politics moved from left, to right, then left again: 'but to express it that way says much less than is needed.' **Jonathan Ricketson** reviews **Helen Garner's** account of being a football grandmother and **Gabriella Coslovich** considers Indigenous intellectual property and the strategy to 'sue everyone'.

Also in December, **James Ley** reviews **Sally Rooney's new novel** and leading critics review new works by **Haruki Murakami, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Lech Blaine, Michel Houellebecq** and **Clive Hamilton**. Reviews examine books on surrealism, urban heritage, the English soul, Simone Weil, our anxious kids, America's romance with foreign dictators, Shakespearean queer lives, decolonisation, and much more.

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About *ABR* *Australian Book Review (ABR)* is Australia's leading literary and cultural magazine. It publishes in-depth literary and arts reviews as well as essays, commentaries, interviews and creative writing. *ABR* covers all the arts, not just literature. *ABR* is committed to highlighting the strengths of critical and creative writing around Australia and to presenting them to an international audience.