

Gold Coast Book Lovers

It's all about good books...

[Home](#)

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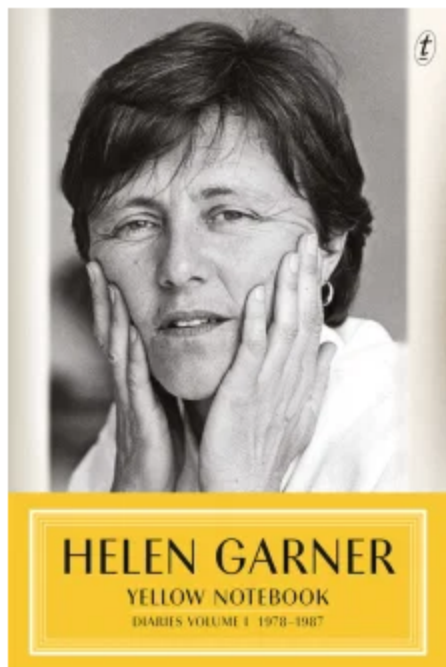
[Other Books We Read](#)

[Book of the Month Reviews](#)

[Links](#)

[Articles](#)

April 2021



Helen Garner has opened her diaries and invited readers into the world behind her novels and works of non-fiction. Recorded with frankness, humour and steel-sharp wit, these accounts of her everyday life provide an intimate insight into the work of one of Australia's greatest living writers.

Yellow Notebook Volume 1 published in November 2019, spans about a decade beginning in the late 1970s just after the publication of her first novel, *Monkey Grip*.

Whilst not everyone's 'cup of tea' most of our group expressed great admiration for Garner's writing, her detailed observations (especially of nature) and frankly expressed views of people, their actions/experiences and her feelings/emotions about them and the world around her.

Diaries are generally difficult books to discuss and this was no exception. Some of our readers did not enjoy reading or, more particularly, listening to the book (read by the author), finding many of the snippets of information of no particular interest, disconnected, fragmented or just too personal to divulge, which begged the question why she decided to publish her very

too personal to divulge, which begged the question why she decided to publish her very personal and private thoughts?

Some readers, however, enjoyed the opportunity to get a glimpse of Garner's personal life and found themselves reflecting on their own life experiences during the period (1978 – 1987) commenting on the comparison with that of Garner's and recalling some of the incidents mentioned, particularly the crimes. They also reflected on the insight into her intimate world, her relationships, especially the loving and strong bond with her daughter, as well as, the insight into her writing process and the doubts she had as a writer, mother, wife and friend. One reader applauded her conviction of presenting herself as an artist, despite her self doubts.

Ratings: Pauline 2.5, Robyn 2, Margie 3, Sandy 3.5, Viv 3, Jenny 3, Di 3, Kim 3.5, Dianne 3.5, Lynda 3.5.

Our next meeting will be at Preece House on 10/05/21 at 6:30PM to discuss *The Time of our Lives* by Robert Dessaix.

Hope to see you all there and happy reading!

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[Home](#)

[Blog](#)

[Other Books We Read](#)

[Book of the Month Reviews](#)

[Links](#)

[Articles](#)

Other Books We Read

April 2021

Dancer by Colum McCann, 4

Oscar and Lucinda by Peter Carey, 4

Midnight Train to Prague by Carol Windley, 3

The Baroness: The Search for Nica, the Rebellious Rothschild by Hannah
Rothschild, 3

A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson, 4

Sula by Toni Morrison, 3

The Friend by Sigrid Nunez, 3

Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982 by Cho Nam-Joo, 3.5