

## Four Fires Bryce Courtenay

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Gates of Fire Kensington Books

Simon Koo is an ambitious Australian-born Chinese who goes to Singapore in the mid-sixties to work for an advertising agency. But the Wing brothers, who run the agency, are not what they seem. There is soon trouble when Simon falls in love with the forbidden Mercy B. Lord. With no family or connections, this beautiful young woman is powerless to resist the evil influence of Beatrice Fong, a manipulative businesswoman who, in league with the Wing brothers, lures her into the international trade in sex workers and heroin trafficking involving the American CIA. Simon must save her at any cost. Set against the wretched trade in drugs and human misery operating during the Vietnam War, *Fortune Cookie* is a spellbinding thriller, with a story of love against impossible odds at its heart. 'A multi-layered, cross-genre epic with tremendously broad appeal.' Sun-Herald [brycecourtenay.com](http://brycecourtenay.com) [facebook.com/BryceCourtenay](https://www.facebook.com/BryceCourtenay)

*The Silver Moon* University of Adelaide Press

In the aftermath of the Great Depression, few opportunities existed for working-class boys, but at just 18 Danny Dunn has a good deal going for him: brains, looks, sporting ability - and an easy charm. His parents run *The Hero*, a favourite neighbourhood pub, and Danny is a local hero. Luck changes for Danny when he signs up to go to war. He returns home a physically broken man, to a life that will be changed for ever. Together with Helen, a woman of strength, character and intelligence who becomes his wife, he sets about rebuilding his life. It is a life tormented by personal demons, and shaped by compassion, corruption, love and power - and the gift of twin daughters, Sam and Gabby. Set against a backdrop of Australian pubs and politics, *The Story of Danny Dunn* is an Australian family saga spanning three generations. It is a compelling tale of love, ambition and the destructive power of obsession, at a time of great change in Australia's history.

Whose History? Simon and Schuster

'This is a personal account of life at the top that will charm the general reader and the political tragic alike' Weekend Australian Anna Bligh knows something about hard knocks and high walls. She was raised by a single mother in the working class Gold Coast, a young girl with a soon-to-be-estranged dad who struggled with alcoholism. She spent over 17 years in the rough and tumble of the Queensland Parliament (seven of them as either Deputy Premier or Premier) and she was the first woman to be elected Premier of an Australian State in her own right. In 2011, she led Queensland through the devastation of Australia's largest natural disasters. Her Party then lost the 2012 State election and Anna stepped down to start a new life, only to find herself diagnosed with cancer. Writing with her trademark honesty, warmth and humour about the challenges that public and private life have thrown her, Anna reflects candidly -- as a wife, mother, daughter, friend and political leader -- on the lessons of leadership, resilience, community and family. 'It is not my bruises and scratches that I want others to see,' she writes in this inspiring, unflinching and engaging memoir about breaking through walls and overcoming obstacles, 'I want them to see the hole in the wall.' 'Compelling reading ... Bligh is a consummate communicator' Sara Dowse, *Inside Story* 'This reflective autobiography is an inspiration to all women to overcome all obstacles in the way of success' Ballarat Courier 'Partly framed as an inspirational text for future leaders, especially the women who will come after her ... Bligh has written one of the more readable political memoirs of recent years' ABR

*The Family Frying Pan* Laurel Leaf

Jessica is based on the inspiring true story of a young girl's fight for justice against tremendous odds. A tomboy, Jessica is the pride of her father, as they work together on the struggling family farm. One quiet day, the peace of the bush is devastated by a terrible murder. Only Jessica is able to save the killer from the lynch mob - but will justice prevail in the courts? Nine months later, a baby is born ... with Jessica determined to guard the secret of the father's identity. The rivalry of Jessica and her beautiful sister for the love of the same man will echo throughout their lives - until finally the truth must be told. Set in the harsh Australian bush against the outbreak of World War I, this novel is heartbreaking in its innocence, and shattering in its brutality. 'A deserved bestseller, based on fact, a story told with heartbreaking honesty.' Australian Women's Weekly 'Courtenay draws on the social satire of Jane Austen and the dark forces of Thomas Hardy, and his tragic heroine parallels Antigone ...' Herald Sun [brycecourtenay.com](http://brycecourtenay.com) [facebook.com/BryceCourtenay](https://www.facebook.com/BryceCourtenay)

*Four Fires* ReadHowYouWant.com

During the Great Depression there was little hope for a boy born into the slums of Cabbagetown, Toronto. But Jack Spayd is offered a ticket out in the form of a Hohner harmonica, won by his brutal drunken father in a late-night card game. Jack makes music as a way of escaping his surroundings, and his talent leads him to a jazz club and, eventually, to the jazz piano. Jack is a virtuoso and hits the road, enchanting audiences in Canada, wartime Europe and Las Vegas, where he is caught up in the world of elite poker and falls under the spell of his boss, the enigmatic Bridgett Fuller. Vegas is a hard town ruled by the Mafia, but Jack prospers, until his luck turns bad and he falls foul of the Mob. Forced to run for his life from Vegas, he must also leave the woman he adores. His adventuring takes him to the far reaches of Africa, to a rare and valuable bird that may seal his fate - and to the love of a very different woman. Set across three continents, Jack of Diamonds is a spellbinding story of chance, music, corruption and love - and Bryce Courtenay's last novel. 'Jack of Diamonds is classic Courtenay.' The Age

*Jessica* Penguin Group Australia

When Mary Abacus dies, she leaves her business empire in the hands of the warring Solomon family.

Hawk Solomon is determined to bring together both sides of the tribe - but it is the new generation who must fight to change the future. Solomons are pitted against Solomons as the families are locked in a bitter struggle that crosses battlefields and continents to reach a powerful conclusion. 'Solomon's Song' is a novel of courage and betrayal in which Bryce Courtenay tells the story of Australia's journey to nationhood.

*Matthew Flinder's Cat* ReadHowYouWant.com

Four fires: passion, religion, warfare and fire itself. Along with love - perhaps the brightest flame of all - these four fires drive the human spirit. In a small town much like any other around Australia live the Maloneys. They are a fifth-generation family of Irish Catholic descent, struggling to reach the first rung of the social ladder. The Maloneys are a family you won't forget: a strong mother, a father broken by war, three boys and two girls, one with an illegitimate daughter. Each of their lives is changed forever by the four fires. *FOUR FIRES* is unashamedly a story of the power of love and the triumph of human spirit against the odds.

*Solomon's Song* ReadHowYouWant.com

In 1939, hatred took root in South Africa, where the seeds of apartheid were newly sown. There a boy called Peekay was born. He spoke the wrong language - English. He was nursed by a woman of the wrong color - black. His childhood was marked by humiliation and abandonment. Yet he vowed to survive - he would become welterweight champion of the world, he would dream heroic dreams. But his dreams were nothing compared to what awaited him. For he embarked on an epic journey, where he would learn the power of words, the power to transform lives, and the mystical power that would sustain him even when it appeared that villainy would rule the world: *The Power of One*.

*Fortune Cookie* Penguin Group Australia

Charts the history of South Asian diaspora, weaving together stories of various peoples colonized by the British Empire.

*Between Two Fires* Text Publishing

An orphan girl's epic journey to womanhood takes her across the world - and back to the man she loves - in this sweeping novel of early twentieth-century Australia. Western Australia, 1898. In the vast and unforgiving desert, a miner discovers a baby girl in the sand, miraculously still alive. Sent to an orphanage, Leonora is still mute with grief and fear as she slowly bonds with another orphan, James. He fights to protect her until both are sent away - Leonora to a wealthy American family, James to relatives who have emigrated from Ireland to claim him. Years later, Leonora is given a chance to return to her beloved Australia. There, in Wanjarri Downs, she will again come face to face with James, who's grown from a reticent boy into a strong, resourceful man. Only James knows the truth about Leonora - that her roots and her heart are here, among the gum trees and red earth. And they will fight to find a way back to each other, even as war, turmoil, and jealousy test their courage again and again. "A captivating story of love and the search for identity. A mesmerizing debut novel." - Kristina McMorris, New York Times bestselling author of *Sold on a Monday*

*I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871 (I Survived #11)* Viking

Paperback edition of an historical novel first published in 1997. In the mid-19th century, twin brothers are kidnapped and separated in childhood, and reunited in Hobart at the age of 15. The novel tells of their adventures as they travel through the Pacific Ocean and to various destinations in Australia and New Zealand, and the way in which their relationship develops. The best-selling author's other publications include 'The Power of One' and 'The Potato Factory'.

*A Recipe for Dreaming* ReadHowYouWant.com

This is the story of two families - branches of the Solomons - transported to an alien land, both of whom eventually grow rich and powerful but who, through three generations, never for one moment relinquish their hatred for each other. It is also the story of our country from the beginning until we came of age as a nation. I have learned a great deal about Australia and those things which concern us as a people and make us, in many ways, who we are today. To write this book, I visited Gallipoli and came away deeply saddened by the terrible waste of our young blood. We would never be quite the same again. It has been a grand adventure and I hope that you will find *Solomon's Song* a good and powerful story. No writer can possibly hope for more. Bryce Courtenay 'Rest in peace Ikey Solomon and thank you, Bryce Courtenay, for concluding your absorbing trilogy on such a stirring note.' Canberra Times 'Courtenay superbly manages to put the reader in the thick of the bloody battles that took so many young lives in Turkey ... Hard to put down.' Daily Telegraph [brycecourtenay.com](http://brycecourtenay.com) [facebook.com/BryceCourtenay](https://www.facebook.com/BryceCourtenay)

*Australianama* Penguin Group Australia

A Vietnam vet returns to an Australia that regards him as a mercenary guilty of war crimes. Thommo begins to develop all kinds of physical and mental problems, and thinks it must only be him until he finds that he is not alone. Ten mates, all who remain of his platoon, are affected in the same way. Now Thommo and his mates are eleven angry men out for revenge. They rope in an ex-Viet Cong with 'special skills' and his own secret agenda. They're the 'Dirty Dozen', just like the movie. Only it's real life, and they're so screwed up they couldn't fight their way out of a wet paper bag. That is, until a woman of character steps in. Wendy's infant daughter is dying and needs a transplant. She sets out to mould this bunch of ex-jungle fighters into a unit that will fight for justice, by fair means or foul. Hell hath no fury ... 'Courtenay's yarn about a whacky bunch of Vietnam vets keeps moving ... it's dead centre in Courtenay's oeuvre, an easy read with a social conscience.' Weekend Australian [brycecourtenay.com](http://brycecourtenay.com) [facebook.com/BryceCourtenay](https://www.facebook.com/BryceCourtenay)

*The Story of Danny Dunn* ReadHowYouWant.com

Tandia sat waiting anxiously for the fight to begin between the man she loved the most and the man she hated the most in the world. Tandia is a child of Africa: half Indian, half African, beautiful and intelligent, she is only sixteen when she is first brutalised by the police. Her fear of the white man leads her to join the black resistance movement, where she trains as a terrorist. With her in the fight for justice is the one white man Tandia can trust, the welterweight champion of the world, Peekay. Now he must fight their common enemy in order to save both their lives. 'This is a marvellous book - first and foremost it is a momentous story, for Bryce Courtenay is a glorious storyteller.' The Advertiser 'Nine hundred pages of sheer blockbuster pleasure.' Sunday Age [brycecourtenay.com](http://brycecourtenay.com) [facebook.com/BryceCourtenay](https://www.facebook.com/BryceCourtenay)

*The Persimmon Tree* Penguin Group Australia

The story of a drunk, a boy and a cat Billy O'Shannessy, once a prominent barrister, is now on the street where he sleeps on a bench outside the State Library. Above him on the window sill rests a bronze statue of Matthew Flinders' cat, Trim. Ryan is a ten-year-old, a near-street kid heading for the usual trouble. The two form an unlikely bond. Through telling Ryan the story of Flinders'

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circumnavigation of Australia as seen through Trim's eyes, Billy is drawn deeply into Ryan's life and into the Sydney underworld. A modern-day story of friendship and redemption by an internationally bestselling author. Visit [brycecourtenay.com](http://brycecourtenay.com)

**Jack Of Diamonds** HarperCollins UK

Nick Duncan is a semi-retired, wealthy shipping magnate who lives in idyllic Beautiful Bay, Vanuatu, where he is known as the old patriarch of the islands. He is grieving the loss of his Eurasian true love, Anna, and is suffering for the first time from disturbing flashbacks to the Second World War. So he puts pen to paper and tells the compelling tale of the life he has lived since his war-hero days - a life of adventure, ambition, and fortunes made and lost. A life that has had at its heart the love of two passionate and unforgettable - but very different women. The seductive Anna Til and the beguiling Marg Hamilton have spent a lifetime in contest for Nick's devotion. Nick remains torn between them, and struggles between their two opposing worlds of economic exploitation and environmental crusade - until he is called upon to referee...Moving between the exotic Pacific Islands, Japan and Australia over several decades, *Fishing for Stars* is an epic drama, and the stunning sequel to Bryce Courtenay's bestselling *The Persimmon Tree*.

**Smoky Joe's Cafe** HarperCollins

Ikey Solomon is in the business of thieving and he's very good at it. Ikey's partner in crime is his mistress, the forthright Mary Abacus, until misfortune befalls them. They are parted and each must make the harsh journey from thriving nineteenth century London to the convict settlement of Van Diemen's Land. In the backstreets and dives of Hobart Town, Mary learns the art of brewing and builds The Potato Factory, where she plans a new future. But her ambitions are threatened by Ikey's wife, Hannah, her old enemy. The two women raise their separate families, one legitimate and the other bastard. As each woman sets out to destroy the other, the families are brought to the edge of disaster.

**Whitethorn** Penguin Group Australia

Inspired by real events, Brother Fish tells the story of three people from vastly differing backgrounds. All they have in common is a tough beginning in life. Jack McKenzie is a harmonica player, soldier, dreamer and small-time professional fisherman from a tiny island in Bass Strait. Nicole Lenoir-Jourdan is a strong-willed woman hiding from an ambiguous past in Shanghai. Larger than life, Private Jimmy Oldcorn was once a street kid and leader of a New York gang. Together, they reap a vast and not always legitimate fortune from the sea. Spanning eighty years and four continents, *Brother Fish* is an inspiring human drama of three lives brought together and changed forever by the extraordinary events of recent history. But most of all it is about the power of friendship and love. 'It is a big, racy read that covers not just Australia, but China, Korea and America. Underpinned with impressive historical research.' The Age 'Triads, the yakuza, Bass Strait storms - Courtenay packs it all in as he layers tragedy and triumph in almost equal measure.' Sydney Morning Herald [brycecourtenay.com](http://brycecourtenay.com)

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**The Night Country** Ace Books

Each of us has a place to return to in our minds, a place of clarity and peace, a place to think, to create, to dream. For Bryce Courtenay this place was a waterhole in Africa where he used to escape to as a boy, in search of solitude. One evening, while lingering there, he witnessed the tallest of the great beasts drinking from the waterhole in the moonlight, and was spellbound. Ever since, he drew inspiration from this moment. *The Silver Moon* gathers together some of the most personal and sustaining life-lessons from Australia's favourite storyteller. In short stories and insights, many written in his final months, Bryce reflects on living and dying, and how through determination, respect for others and taking pleasure in small moments of joy, he lived life to the fullest. From practical advice on how to write a bestseller to general inspiration on how to realise your dreams, *The Silver Moon* celebrates Bryce Courtenay's lifelong passion for storytelling, language and the creative process, and brings us closer to the man behind the bestsellers.

**Sylvia** Penguin Group Australia

In a small town like any other small town around Australia live the Maloneys. They are a fifth-generation Australian family of Irish Catholic descent who are struggling to reach the first rung of the social ladder. The Maloneys are a family you won't forget: a strong mother, a father broken by war, three boys and two girls, one of whom has an illegitimate daughter. Each of their lives is changed forever by the four fires - passion, religion, warfare and fire itself. *Four Fires* is a story of the power of love and the triumph of the human spirit against the odds. 'Not since writing *The Power of One* have I felt this close to a book.' Bryce Courtenay 'It's a thumping saga of small-town rural Australian family (with) a cracking pace ... but be warned: construct yourself a holiday reading platform or that deckchair will collapse.' Weekend Australian [brycecourtenay.com](http://brycecourtenay.com)

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