



## BOOKS OF THE WEEK



### **GET WELL SOON! MY (UN) BRILLIANT CAREER AS A NURSE**

*Kristy Chambers, UQP, \$24.95*

Like most good memoirs, *Get Well Soon* will have you laughing and crying in equal measure . . . and sometimes both at the same time. Brisbane's Kristy Chambers describes her colourful career as a nurse, giving us snippets of stories of people from all walks of life, from relapsing drug addicts to terminal cancer patients. She offers fascinating insights into not only the day-to-day

inner workings of the healthcare system, but also how people end up there in the first place. Very moving.

*Chosen by Tanee Mangan, Riverbend Books, Bulimba*

### **LOLA BENSKY**

*Lily Brett, Penguin, \$30*

Lola Bensky is an Australian rock journalist who finds herself talking to Jimi Hendrix about hair curlers, lending false eyelashes to Cher and having cups of tea with Mick Jagger. It's 1967 and an exciting time for a young girl to find herself in London and New York. But no matter where Lola goes, she can never be far from her past and from her family legacy. She is the only child of Auschwitz survivors.

But this is not a novel of despair. There is much to like about it because it manages to be both funny and deeply moving.

*Chosen by  
Fiona Stager,  
Avid Reader,  
West End*



### **MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN**

*Salman Rushdie, Picador paperback, \$8.90 secondhand*

A Booker Prize-winner from a remarkable author (1981). I love this historical fiction narrated by Saleem Sinai of the enormous dripping nose, born at the stroke of midnight on the day of India's independence. It is at once a magical story evoking the Arabian Nights and an indictment of India's evolution as a nation state. Rushdie collaborated with director Deepa Mehta on the film version, due for release next month. Shooting in 2011 was kept secret as Mehta feared protests by Islamic hardliners.

*Chosen by  
Dawn Albinger,  
Archives Fine  
Books,  
Charlotte St,  
Brisbane CBD*



## **THE GIRL WHO FELL FROM THE SKY**

*Heidi Darrow, Oneworld Publications, \$11.95 secondhand*

In this novel, related by individuals who saw a terrible event, questions regarding race and family slowly arise to reveal the prejudice and secrets beneath the surface. Gradually, the lines blur between what is acceptable, as the protagonist, Rachel, enters her teenage years and has to confront her past as well as the consequences of her own actions and those closest to her. This drip-fed story keeps giving until the final pages.

*Chosen by  
Paula  
Herlihen,  
Atavist  
Bookstore,  
Fortitude  
Valley*



## **THE CHITLIN' CIRCUIT AND THE ROAD TO ROCK 'N' ROLL**

*Preston Lauterbach, Norton, \$45*

The musical phenomenon the Chitlin' Circuit flourished throughout America's south for two decades beginning in the late 1930s. It provided venues for the pioneers in what was first known as the blues, then as rhythm and blues, then as rock 'n' roll - B.B. King, T-Bone Walker, Little Richard, James Brown, Ray Charles et al. In its heyday, the circuit was a vital part of African-American culture, bringing joy to people who didn't have much, and a new world of music to us all.

*Chosen by  
Adam Pettet,  
TITLE,  
Fortitude  
Valley*

