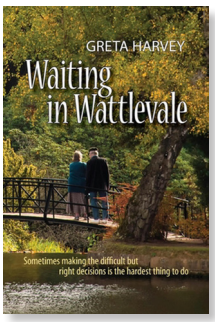
taswriters

Give Tassie Books this Christmas and holidays

FICTION & SHORT STORIES

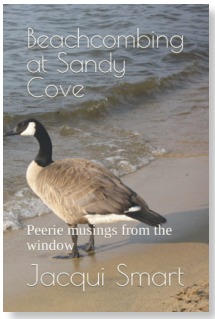


***Waiting in Wattlevale*, Greta Harvey**

Waiting in Wattlevale is a feel good tale - a year in an aged care facility in rural Victoria. Plenty of humour, hilarity and compassion. Read all the residents stories and the staff's in the daily goings on in the home.

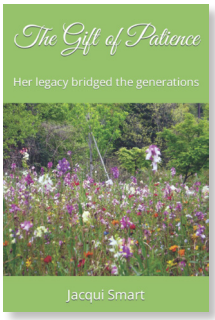
Available from local booksellers, through Blackgum Distributors, and online.

Two books by Jacqui Smart



Beachcombing at Sandy Cove

What is Sorcha's long-held secret? Why won't the new neighbour take a hint? Where did Beth's surprise visitor come from? Do horoscopes really reveal our future? What anniversary gift do you give the man who has everything? From the mystical beauty of the Isle of Skye to Hyde Park in London; from Shetland to Concord, Massachusetts, and magical Ireland to Middle Ages Rome, follow the stories of the characters in this eclectic collection of short stories by the multi-published Tasmanian author, Jacqui Smart. The themes are varied but there is an underlying thread of hope and strength, and friendship.

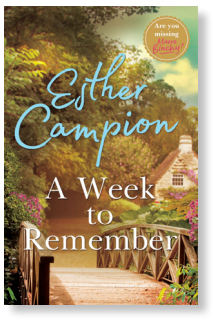


The Gift of Patience

Return to Sandy Cove and view it through new eyes. Meet Claire Summers, the latest arrival. Follow her journey as she makes new friends, recaptures old friendships, and uncovers long-held secrets.

Fuchsia hedges, recurring dreams that span the decades, and, of course, small white dogs. Combine these with that hint of magic that is spoken of in hushed tones. Sandy Cove and its inhabitants soon hold Claire in their spell. Her life will never be the same.

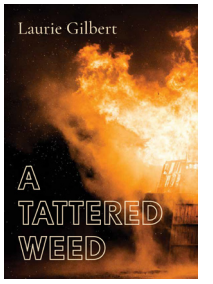
Jacqui Smart's books are available online or from the author: jacqui_skellig@hotmail.com/0410 717 289



***A Week To Remember*, Esther Campion**

A converted stone farmhouse on the Irish coast is about to receive its first guests in this warmly captivating story for fans of Maeve Binchy and Monica McInerney.

From local booksellers and Hachette.

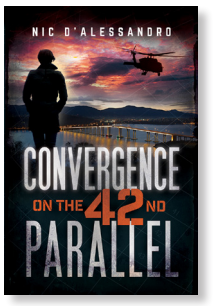


***Tattered Weed*, Laurie Gilbert**

Reese was a young man with the world at his feet when he was drafted to fight in Vietnam, a conflict that was so controversial he was not fully convinced it was a just battle. He and best friend, Chris did their tour of duty, with Reese being injured and spending months in hospital after being shipped home. He suffers from nightmares and flashbacks but is working towards resuming his normal life when everything is changed in an instant. He takes his Harley out with dire results that will change his life, and his outlook, forever.

From Greenhill Publishers, online and some local stores.

THRILLERS & MYSTERY

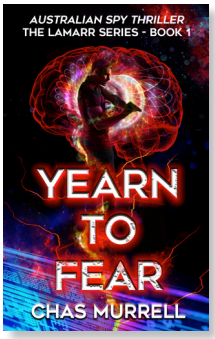


***Convergence on the 42nd Parallel*, Nic D'Alessandro**

The parallel lives of a US Navy helicopter pilot and a Chinese spy collide during an aircraft carrier visit to Hobart where their actions will ultimately shake this quiet place and reverberate across the world. This is a tale of those who serve at sea, in the sky, and in secret; and of political and media corruption. It is a human story of individuals torn between family bonds and national duty where their choices will mean success or failure, and life or death - culminating in a thrilling edge-of-your-seat climax and an ending you won't predict.

Available at most local booksellers, selected newsagents, and from nicdalessandro.com

Please support local booksellers



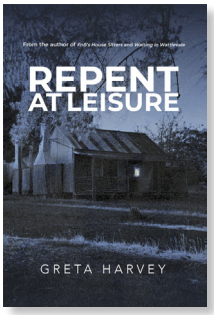
***Yearn to Fear*, Chas Murrell**

Winner: Best Spy Thriller 2021 (bestthrillers.com/the-best-thriller-books-of-2021)

Winner: Gold award 'Literary Titans'.

(Hedy) Lamarr series book 1. Australian Spy Thriller centered around CSIRO scientist Marcus and assistant Henry (a covert ASIO operative) researching a better 5G Wifi receiver. This results in a neuroscience breakthrough - the Marc1. The Marc1 causes people to dream and 'Yearn' for those they love, but this means different things to different people. It transpires the Marc1 could also induce other emotions such as 'Fear'. International spy agencies race for control. Strong, highly intelligent, capable women leads, no damsels in distress here!

Available at Petrarch's Bookshop, Launceston; Wattlebird, Evandale; chasmurrell.com.au; and online sellers.



***Repent at Leisure*, Greta Harvey**

Repent at Leisure is set in Brisbane, a crime/mystery beginning in the late 1970's and continuing on up to 2000. A rather dark story of the disappearance of a hitchhiker and the criminals try again a decade later and kidnap a tourist, unable to let her free.

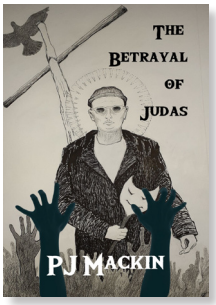
Available from local booksellers, Blackgum and online.

CRIME/TRUE CRIME

***On Shipstern Bluff*, John Tully**

Described by Charles Wooley as 'Tassie noir,' *On Shipstern Bluff* continues the story of Detective Inspector Jack Martin, the hero of Tully's earlier *Dark Clouds on the Mountain*. After a child's body is found atop the cliffs on the Tasman Peninsula, a series of hard-to-solve cases follow and point to an international trafficking ring in Hobart. Redolent of the people and places of Tasmania, the case leads from Shipstern Bluff to the grim industrial streets of Derwent Park, out along the Lyell Highway, and back to the sandstone buildings of Old Hobart. A must-read for aficionados of well-written crime fiction.

Available at Fullers, Hobart and State bookshops, Hobart; Petrarch's in Launceston; and the Cygnet, Franklin and Dover post offices. Also online as an eBook.



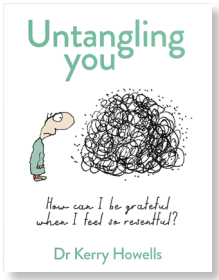
***The Betrayal of Judas*, PJ Mackin**

The underbelly of the Catholic Church - a tale of deception and betrayal.

There is something more horrific than the murder of the innocent. They always knew what was happening but they turned a blind eye. Hiding out on the streets of Melbourne, Judas stumbles across the truth. It wasn't his choice, he already had his own of problems to deal with. But he saw what happened and now he knew too much. He couldn't be trusted. And now the Church needed a special type of priest to keep him quiet. They found him.

Available from major online sellers.

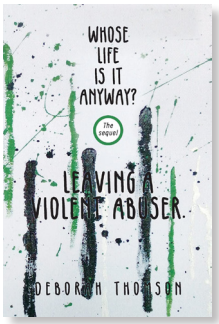
MEMOIR/NON-FICTION



***Untangling you: How can I be grateful when I feel so resentful?* Kerry Howells**

No doubt you have experienced everyday resentment in your life: a sibling who appeared to be favoured by your parents; a workmate who was promoted ahead of you; a partner who doesn't do their share of the housework; the list goes on. Numerous clinical studies have demonstrated the positive benefits of gratitude, yet it can seem inaccessible and inappropriate when we feel the exact opposite of gratitude: resentment. This life-changing book has been written to untangle this dilemma. Based on 25 years of groundbreaking research, *Untangling you: How can I be grateful when I feel so resentful?* offers practical strategies to untangle difficult relationships and overcome everyday resentments through practising deep gratitude.

Available from bookshops and kerryhowells.com



***Whose Life Is It Anyway? Leaving a Violent Abuser*, Deborah Thomson**

The sequel to *Whose Life Is It Anyway? Recognising and Surviving Domestic Violence*, a chilling memoir of Deborah Thomson's eighteen years of life with her violent and controlling abuser, Wayne. *Whose Life Is It Anyway? Leaving a Violent Abuser,* describes how Deborah left Wayne, taking their children with her. She thought they were now free from abuse. Not so. Deborah looks closely at the pitfalls of the Family Law court as experienced by an abused parent, while attempting to keep her children safe from harm. It is a story that will resonate with every parent engaging in a fight for the rights of children. Does the Family court act 'in the best interests' of the child? You be the judge.

*Available from Fullers and Hobart Bookshop, and Greenhill Publishers. (*Leaving a Violent Abuser *is available from the same local booksellers and Simon and Schuster.)*

COMING IN JANUARY

***Stalked by Demons, Guarded by Angels; The Girl with the Eating Disorder*, Simone Yemm**

A window into the depths of dysfunction as experienced through bulimia, binge-eating disorder, self-harm, and suicidality. Carrying messages of self-loathing and inadequacy from her childhood, Simone explores key relationships and how they shape her over the decades. She doesn't pretend to answer all the questions or solve all the problems but instead attempts to elicit an understanding of behaviors many people might find inexplicable. Simone's journey into the world of psychological recovery is raw and personal, as full of relapse and regret as it is hope for the future.

Released 11 January 2022. Will be available from local booksellers and at koehlerbooks.com

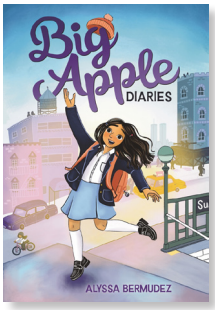
***Travels with my suitcase; from Tasmania in search of sound*, Teresa Beck-Swindale**

Travelling can become an obsession, as can music. Put the two together and it's a recipe for adventure with a capital A. Before COVID hit, Teresa took off to Europe in search of fabulous music and instrumental characters on the world stage - and found them. Anecdotes from the road with observations from the trundler of a suitcase carrying a message: There is no Planet B.

Nine tracks of music composed by the author, enhance the chapters. The CD and download card accompany the full colour paperback and hardback books. Also available in audiobook online and CD formats.

Available from Hobart Bookshop, Seppenfelts (Deloraine) and teresabeckswindale.com.au

GRAPHIC NOVEL (MEMOIR)



***Big Apple Diaries*, Alyssa Bermudez**

A heartfelt diary-style graphic memoir. It's the year 2000 in New York City. For 12-year old Alyssa, this means navigating the trials and tribulations of middle school, and an epic crush on a new classmate. Doodling her way through middle school, the months go by, and a new school year starts - 2001. Suddenly it's September 11 and a terrorist attack changes her world, leaving her wondering if she can ever be a kid again. The only way to make sense of it all is to capture the highs and lows in doodles and hilarious comics, in her diary.

Available at Area 52 and Fullers, and online sellers.

HISTORY/HISTORICAL FICTION

***Emilie*, Ingrid Ramsdale**

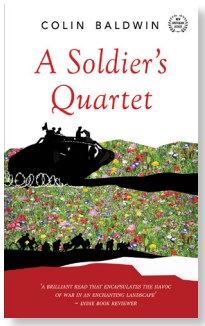
Finalist 2021 IAN Book of the Year Award
2021 indieBRAG medallist

PARIS 1572: Noble born Emilie Lefroy rebels against her strict Huguenot upbringing to become a healer. The St Bartholomew Day massacre forces Emilie to flee the city and use her newfound skills to save herself and other French reformists.

Emilie is a captivating adventure of self-discovery that is brimming with raw emotions and heartbreak. Can Emilie find herself and true love in a world of hate and violence? This historical romance and adventure novel set in the French renaissance will keep you spellbound to the end.

Suitable for all readers 15 - 100+

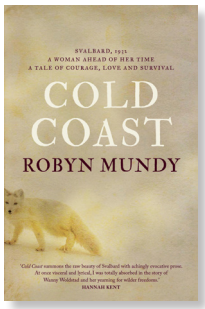
From Hobart Bookshop and Fullers, and the author: www.ingridramsdale.com



***A Soldier's Quartet*, Colin Baldwin**

Conrad Bentley enjoys retirement. He comes across a letter from 1918 - a German father writes about his grief of losing a son in WWI - and the words penned a century ago resonate with Conrad. He researches the letter and makes contact with the fallen soldier's living relatives, falling deeper into their family history and other untold stories from this era, including the fate of young Tasmanian soldiers. Inspired by true events, *A Soldier's Quartet* speaks of perseverance and happenstance, of loss, landscapes, music and art, all themes that transcends time and reach across continents.

From local booksellers and Shawline Publishing.

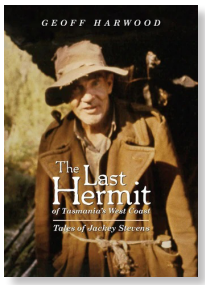


***Cold Coast*, Robyn Mundy**

WILD • FIERCE • MAJESTIC

Inspired by the story of Norway's first female trapper, Cold Coast is a gripping portrayal of survival within the stark beauty and perilous wilderness of the high Arctic. In 1932, Wanny Woldstad travels to Svalbard, daring to enter the Norwegian trappers' fiercely guarded male domain. She must prove to her trapping partner who makes no secret of his disdain, that a woman is fit for the task. Through Svalbard's bleak winter, Wanny will confront polar bears, traverse glaciers, withstand blizzards and hike miles to trap Arctic fox, all in the frigid darkness of the long polar night.

From booksellers throughout Australia. Also online in eBook and Audio Book form.



***The Last Hermit*, Geoff Harwood**

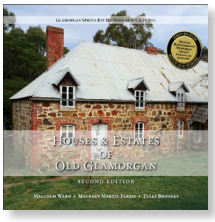
"In these pages you will meet an amazing man, the extraordinary Jack Stevens, last of the West Coast bush hermits. You will never again encounter the likes of Jack Stevens. He is at once an innocent abroad - a naif if ever there was one - and the wisest of men.

He reads the language of the birds, though unconsciously it must be said, and he interprets other signals, signals oh so subtle, that reach him in his ramshackle hut somewhere near the line of the old Zeehan Road."

Pete Hay, Tasmanian Writer and Poet.

From local booksellers Forty South (fortysouth.com.au) and the author (geoffharwood.com.au).

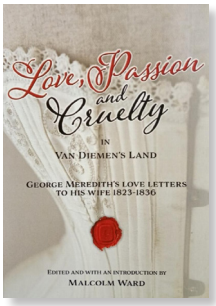
Please support local booksellers



***Houses & Estates of Old Glamorgan*, Malcolm Ward, Maureen Martin Ferris and Tully Brookes**

This second edition of the highly successful *Houses & Estates of Old Glamorgan* contains additional historic properties of the east coast of Tasmania and revisions and additions throughout. Beautifully laid out and meticulously researched and footnoted, the book illustrates and describes over 35 nineteenth-century estates and buildings of the former Glamorgan municipality, together with the pioneer settlers who settled and built them. Most of the buildings are hidden from public view, so this book affords a rare glimpse into the magnificent built heritage of eastern Tasmania.

From local booksellers and the Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society (glamorganhistory.org.au).



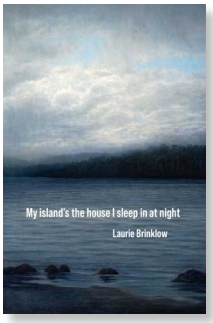
***Love, Passion and Cruelty in Van Diemen's Land. George Meredith's Love Letters to his Wife 1823-1836*, Malcolm Ward**

Love, Passion and Cruelty in VDL is a collection of early-nineteenth century love letters from bombastic settler George Meredith to his young second wife Mary. Written elliptically in a gardening code, which is explained by the author, the letters are passionate and erotic but also cruel, when Meredith repeatedly turns to telling Mary of her faults. The letters are a fascinating insight into the appetites of a 'respectable' Hobart town settler and an illustration of how wives at the time were utterly controlled by their husbands, even told what to think.

"A riveting read," Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow.

From local booksellers and the Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society (glamorganhistory.org.au).

POETRY



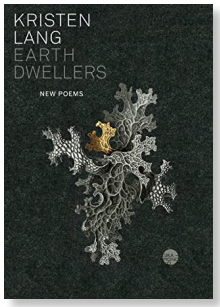
***My island's the house I sleep in at night*, Laurie Brinklow**

Being an islander means that you aren't like everyone else. Bounded by water, you can live your life with certainty knowing where your edges are. Drawn from interviews with artists from Newfoundland and Tasmania, these poems capture what it means to be an islander. To know every rock and tickle,

the sea your road
the hole in the sky
your light to travel by.

In *My island's the house I sleep in at night*, Brinklow weaves stories and images with her own poetic imaginings. These are poems steeped in community memory, about belonging to a place like nowhere else, a kitchen party full of islanders telling stories about the patch of rock they call home.

Available from Walleah Press (walleahpress.com.au).



***Earth Dwellers* Kristen Lang**

With its immersion in powerful wilderness landscapes, *Earth Dwellers* challenges our human-centredness by embracing perspectives which set the intimate delicacy of life forms against time scales that go back millions of years. These are deep-breath poems, full of touch and awareness, consolidated by their commitment to the ecologies that envelop us.

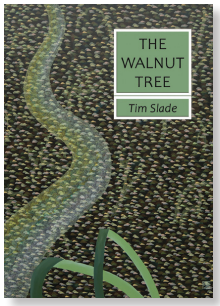
The crags do not notice
if I have come from stone or am becoming stone
or am merely part of the weather.

Available from Hobart Bookshop, Petrarch's, Devonport Bookshop, Giramondo (giramondopublishing.com) and the author at kristenlang.carrd.co

***Points of recognition*, Jane Williams**

'Jane Williams's eye and ear are trained to human idiosyncrasy and foible, and to the endless possibilities that are held within a life. In her ineffable compassion and in the ringing rhythms of her long syntax this is poetry that speaks to the ear and the marrow.' Sarah Day.

Available from Ginninderra (ginninderrapress.com.au), local and online booksellers, and from the author: janecatherinemgw@gmail.com



***The Walnut Tree*, Tim Slade**

'To describe Tim as a poetic formalist is to do him an injustice. He defies poetic pigeonholing. Much of his work is gloriously inventive... There's a new world on every page. He is emotionally challenging, often humorous, sometimes delighted, sometimes sad but never maudlin, never piteous. He looks out from his tin miner's cottage in Pioneer, and he sees a world of wonder, and he writes it.' Pete Hay.

'This poet has a certain shimmer to his writing and deserves to be read.' Karen Knight

'I commend this art to all.' Jim Everett

'A fine debut.' David Mason

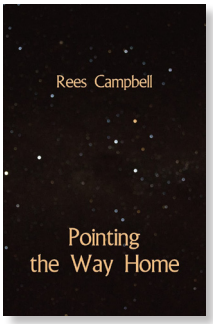
Available from booksellers around Tasmania and Bright South (brightsouth.com.au)

***Fragile Friday*, Joy Elizabeth**

Fragile Friday is an insightful, provocative book that deserves front row seating. Joy embraces life and is not afraid to write about the highs and lows with raw and yet joyful emotion, in poems that are charged, brave and edgy; poems that cut straight to the heart.

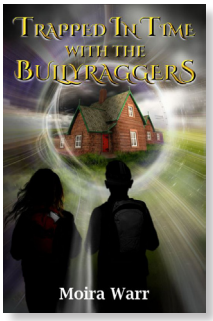
'This is a poetry gathering that women in particular will want to revisit and share for years to come. You will want to gift this book to the people you love and say, "Read this. Please".' Karen Knight

Available from Petrarchs in Launceston, or from the author: new@maisonrond.com

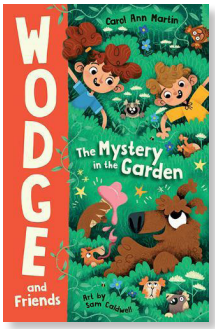


***Pointing The Way Home*, Rees Campbell**
Poems that stir, confront, evoke. You may empathise, sympathise and disagree, but you won't be disappointed. Rees Campbell's words take you inside a life, through a window; or walk you through the desert in a drought. Very much a Tasmanian writer, 'raw and challenging as the wind whipping up from Bass Strait', many of these poems evoke the spirit of the landscape of this island. Others take you to the 'big island', and many simply go straight to your heart.
Available from Ginninderra (ginninderrapress.com.au), Fullers, or the author: reescampbell1@gmail.com

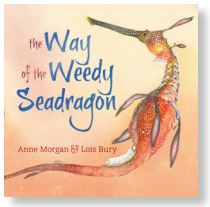
PICTURE BOOKS/YOUNGER READERS



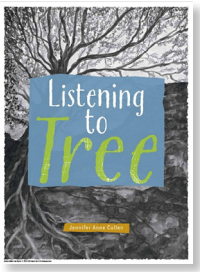
***Trapped in Time With the Bullyraggers*, Moira Warr**
A time-travelling fantasy Moira Warr was inspired to write after reading her sister's diary, written in 1954, when she was 10 years old. Subjects covered include bullying, New Zealand history, travel in modern Europe and time-travel.
In *Trapped in Time*, Harley records the adventures she and her brother Miles experience as they slip in and out of New Zealand, where it is 1954, and then back to Europe. Their grandmother has given them a special pendant; an old Maori fish hook made of greenstone. Rubbing this magical heirloom triggers the means of their escape to another time and place.
Released in the UK by Blossom Spring Publishers, Available at Waterstones UK and online booksellers.



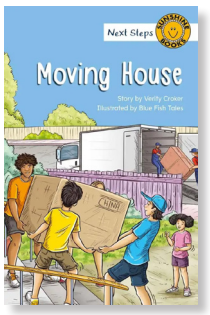
Books 1 and 2 in the Wodge Series: *Wodge and Friends: The Mystery in the Garden*; *Wodge and Friends Take the Stage*; Carol Ann Martin
Nancy and Dom are staying with the eccentric Miss Heatherbell, while their father is in Antarctica photographing an elephant seal named Brian. Before long, the pair discover some really weird beings hidden at the bottom of the garden, a secret they can only share with their besties, Arlo and Sammi. Despite unwelcome interference from the MacGubbin gang, and with the help of a herd of guinea pigs, in these two books the children are caught up in a series of hilarious adventures involving, among other things, shape-shifting and some woefully unreliable magic. Entertaining holiday reading for 8-11 years.
Available from local booksellers and online.



***The Way of the Weedy Seadragon*, Anne Morgan, illustrated by Lois Bury**
Whitley Award for Best Children's Natural History Book, 2021
This enchanting story takes you under the sea to meet this mysterious sea creature, and reveals its weird and wonderful ways. The weedy seadragon has a talent for camouflage, weird eating habits and a unique courtship dance. But its habitat and future are threatened. Written by Anne Morgan, and beautifully illustrated by Lois Bury, *The Way of the Weedy Seadragon* invites you to dive into the astonishing lives of one of the world's most curious sea creatures. Suits children aged 6-9.
Available from most booksellers, locally and beyond.



***Listening to Tree*, Jennifer Anne Cullen**
Listening to Tree is a picture book for children, and an ecological education resource, written and illustrated by an experienced teacher. Tree tells a child resting beneath her "cascading canopy" of the important roles trees play. Best for ages 8-12. *Listening to Tree* includes four free bonuses: 1. 20-page booklet of lessons, activities and e-resources for further investigation of the ideas in the book. 2. Set of colouring in pages based on the illustrations in the book. 3. A packet of seeds of an iconic Tasmanian tree. 4. Full PDF version of the book. (1, 2 and 4 are all supplied in PDF form via email, on request).
Available from local booksellers or the author: jenizen56@gmail.com.



***Moving House*, Verity Croker**
Moving House tells the story of Benji, whose family is downsizing to an apartment. He and his dog, Doris, aren't so sure about the idea. But Benji's friends help with the move, providing an element of fun. Perhaps Benji and Doris will get used to their new home after all. Moving House is suitable for readers 8-10.
Available from the publisher, at sunshinebooks.com.au/product/moving-house-level-22

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taswriters.org/tassie-books-this-christmas-and-holidays (2019)

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