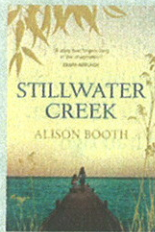


Book reviews

By fiction editor Julie Redlich

Celebrate Australia Day and enjoy these first novels by Aussie authors



STILLWATER CREEK, by Alison Booth, Bantam, rrp \$32.95. It's the 1950s, and Ilona and her young daughter Zidra come to Jingera, a small coastal town. After time in a concentration camp, and her husband's death, Ilona hopes

for a new life, funded by her love of music. This is a warm portrait of a community with George the butcher and his clever young son Jim, Lorna, the lively Aboriginal girl who befriends Zidra, Peter, the lonely ex-RAF pilot, and Cheryl, the generous publican's wife. But one unpleasant secret affects them all. This gently humorous, sympathetic portrait of life as we led it then, makes us hope for a return visit to Jingera and the people we've come to love.



SHALLOW WATER, by Stuart Black, Sid Harta Publishers, rrp \$24.95.

Aussie Brad West, living in London, finds a body lying in the road and the police are interested. In him. Brad's wife, Jemma, is the daughter of a powerful English family and

when her father dies and his will is read, there are tempestuous times ahead. To maintain good relations with Jemma's sister and her husband, they all go to Australia for a holiday on the Barrier Reef. Another body, a mysterious stalker, suspicions, secrets and surprise twists link the two deaths and lead to a heart-stopping final confrontation. Let's hope we'll meet those Queensland detectives again – soon!