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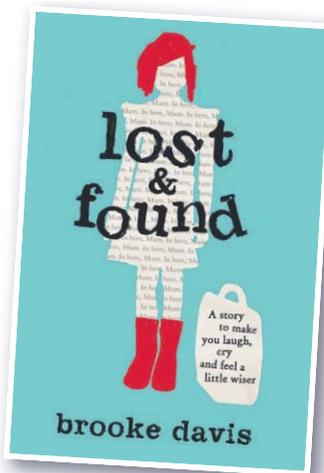
book reviews

LOST & FOUND

Millie Bird is seven when her mother abandons her in a department store. Death is something she understands too well; she has a book recording the 27 dead things she has encountered in her short life, a list that includes her father. Agatha Pantha hasn't left her home in the seven years since her husband died. She sits at the window, yelling nasty comments at passers-by. Karl, who's 87, touch types everything – once it was love letters on his wife's skin, and now his fingers move in constant memory of her. When his son takes him to a home, he wonders when he stopped mattering, and when he stopped doing things, rather than just remembering them. And so he does the bravest thing he's ever done and walks out. When these three lost souls find each other, all the rules get broken. This debut novel from the West Australian author sparked a bidding war, selling to 25 countries. It deserves every bit of that hype. Everything about the characters and the writing feels exactly right, and the result is a book that's heartbreaking and funny and brilliant

Corinna Hente

● **Brooke Davis, Hachette, \$27**

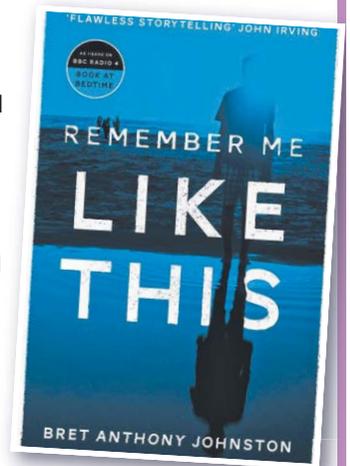


REMEMBER ME LIKE THIS

Four years after the disappearance of 11-year-old Justin, the Campbell family struggles to keep his memory alive. Hopes have faded and they are exhausted by survivor guilt. Laura volunteers at the local Marine Centre, recording observations of a rescued dolphin, to occupy her sleepless nights. Troubled adolescent Griff's budding romance is threatened by self doubt, while Eric labours to provide the kind of strength seen in his own father. An unexpected breakthrough brings hope, but their fragile happiness is threatened by the news that the man who took their son has been bailed to await trial in their tight-knit Gulf community. The approaching Shrimporee festival, now dedicated to Justin, will be a turning point. As the holiday crowds flock to the fair, the family's desire for revenge and closure will be resolved one way or another. This is not a police procedural but a moving account of a family facing the unthinkable. Johnston mines the interior lives of his characters and maps the complex range of their reactions.

Michael Summers

● **Bret Anthony Johnston, Hachette, \$30**



TAPESTRY

This is an intriguing take on the true story of the Earl of Nithsdale's romantic escape from the Tower of London in 1715. His fragile wife emerges as the hero, orchestrating the daring breakout upon hearing her husband is to be hanged for his part in the doomed Jacobite Rebellion for Scottish independence. Australian Fiona McIntosh comfortably flits back and forth between the 18th century and the 1978 romance of heroine Jane Granger. Plenty of action and romance.

Belinda Willis

● **Fiona McIntosh, Harper Collins, \$30**

