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1 of 2) (EasyRead Large
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The Devil's Playground **Dead**
Europe Tolerance, Prejudice
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Watching The Parliament of
Blood Ten Days in the Hills
Liberty Queer Theory and the
Impact on Australian Literature

Language **Cézanne** **Alan**
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Barrakuda

A man arrives at a house on the coast to write a book. Separated from his lover and family and friends, he finds the solitude he craves in the pyrotechnic beauty of nature, just as the world he has shut out is experiencing a cataclysmic shift. The preoccupations that have galvanised him and his work fall away and he becomes lost in memory and beauty. He begins to tell us a story ... A retired porn star who is made an offer he can't refuse for the sake of his family and future. So he returns to the world he fled years before, all too aware of the danger of opening the door to past temptations and

long-buried desires. Can he resist the oblivion and bliss they promise? A breathtakingly audacious novel by the acclaimed author of *The Slap* and *Damascus* about finding joy and beauty in a raging and punitive world, about the refractions of memory and time and, most subversive of all, the mystery of art and its creation. Clint is one of the old reliables in Lake Wobegon - the treasurer of the Lutheran church and the auto mechanic who starts your car on below-zero mornings. For six years he has run the Fourth of July parade, turning what was once a line of pickup trucks and girls pushing baby carriages that hold their cats into a dazzling spectacle that has attracted the attention of CNN and prompted the governor to put in an appearance as well. The town is dizzy with anticipation. Until, that is, they hear of Clint's ambition to run for Congress. They're embarrassed for him. They know him too well - his unfortunate episodes involving vodka sours, his rocky marriage. And then there

is his friendship, or whatever it is, with the twenty-four-year-old girl who dresses up as the Statue of Liberty for the parade. It's rumoured that underneath those robes she is buck naked, and that her torch contains a quart of booze. It's Lake Wobegon as it's always been - good, loving people who drive each other crazy. George Archer, Liz Oldfield and Eddie Hopkins have survived some rather frightening events in their lives, but things are about to get much scarier. They discover that vampires do exist, are intent on taking over London and ending the human race. Together with Sir William Protheroe, they must research ancient Egyptian mummies, a secret underground London gentlemen's club, and a well-known theatre actor to try and stop the vampires from overthrowing Parliament and taking over the world. In the aftermath of the 2003 Academy Awards, Max and Elena - he's an Oscar-winning writer/director - open their Hollywood Hills home to a group of friends and neighbors,

industry insiders and hangers-on, eager to escape the outside world and dissect the latest news, gossip, and secrets of the business. Over the next ten days, old lovers collide, new relationships form, and sparks fly, all with Smiley's signature sparkling wit and characterization. With its breathtaking passion and sexy irreverence, *Ten Days in the Hills* is a glowing addition to the work of one of our most beloved novelists. Three acclaimed writers explore the crucial issues facing contemporary Australia: fear, prejudice and tolerance. Christos Tsiolkas is one of the most recognizable and internationally successful literary novelists working in Australia today. He is also one of the country's most politically engaged writers. These terms – recognition, commercial success, political engagement – suggest a relationship to forms of public discourse that belies the extremely confronting nature of much of Tsiolkas's fiction and his deliberate attempt to cultivate a literary

persona oriented to notions of blasphemy, obscenity and what could broadly be called a pornographic sensibility. 'Christos Tsiolkas and the Fiction of Critique' traces these contradictions against Tsiolkas's acute sense of the waning of working-class identity, and reads his work as a sustained examination of the ways in which literature might express an opposition to capitalist modernity. Love, sex, death, family, friendship, betrayal, tenderness, brutality, sacrifice and revelation. This incendiary collection of stories from acclaimed writer Christos Tsiolkas, bestselling author of *The Slap* and *Barracuda*, takes you deep into worlds both strange and familiar, and introduces you to characters who will never let you go and situations that will haunt you forever. 'one of the most significant contemporary storytellers at work today.' Colm Toibin, author of *Brooklyn*. 'there is not a more important writer working in Australia today.' Australian Bookseller & Publisher. 'one of

our most important novelists.' Age 'Tsiolkas has become that rarest kind of writer in Australia, a serious literary writer who is also unputdownable, a mesmerising master of how to tell a story. He has this ability more than any other writer in the country . ' Peter Craven, Sun-Herald 'One of the most astute chroniclers and critics of our age and culture, Tsiolkas is a passionate, poetic, political polemicist, but his critiques take the form of enthralling stories that are peopled with characters that bounce off the page.' Adelaide Advertiser 'Tsiolkas is a hard-edged, powerful writer . leaves us exhausted but gasping with admiration.' Washington Post 'The sheer energy of Tsiolkas' writing-its urgency and passion and sudden jags of tenderness-is often an end in itself: a thrilling, galvanising reminder of the capacity of fiction to speak to the world it inhabits.' James Bradley, Monthly Join an eccentric novelist on the run from his obsessive would-be biographer in this comic farce

by the radical Nobel Laureate and author of Lord of the Flies.Why should I conceal the fact that I had found a full professor of Eng. Lit. rifling my dustbin?Fame, fortune, alcoholism, a failing marriage: for novelist Wilfred Barclay, his final unbearable irritation is his would-be-biographer, the young academic Professor Rick L. Tucker, who is determined to become The Barclay Man.Locked in a lethal relationship, the two men stumble across Europe, shedding wives, self-respect and identities in a game of literary cat and mouse - and the climax of their odyssey, when it comes, is as inevitable as it is unexpected . . .'A complex literary comedy from an extraordinarily powerful writer, which holds us right through to the end.' Malcolm Bradbury'Rich as a compost heap . . . It moves you and at times it can shake you.' Melvyn Bragg'[Golding's] splendid comic gift is used to often hilarious effect, running the whole gamut of comedy, from irony to farce . . . Hugely

enjoyable.' Daily Telegraph The basis for the NBC event series directed by Lisa Cholodenko and starring Uma Thurman, Peter Sarsgaard, and Zachary Quinto. In this powerful and riveting novel reminiscent of Liane Moriarty's *Truly, Madly, Guilty*, literary phenomenon Christos Tsiolkas unflinchingly exposes the inner workings of domestic life, friendship, and parenthood in the twenty-first century, and reminds us of the passions and malice that family loyalty can provoke. When a man slaps another couple's child at a neighborhood barbecue, the event send unforeseeable shock waves through the lives of all who are witness to it. Told from the points of view of eight people who were present, *The Slap* shows how a single action can change the way people think about how they live, what they want, and what they believe forever. A bold and provocative study that presents language not as an innate component of the brain—as most linguists do—but as an essential tool unique to each culture

worldwide. For years, the prevailing opinion among academics has been that language is embedded in our genes, existing as an innate and instinctual part of us. But linguist Daniel Everett argues that, like other tools, language was invented by humans and can be reinvented or lost. He shows how the evolution of different language forms—that is, different grammar—reflects how language is influenced by human societies and experiences, and how it expresses their great variety. For example, the Amazonian Pirahã put words together in ways that violate our long-held understanding of how language works, and Pirahã grammar expresses complex ideas very differently than English grammar does. Drawing on the Wari' language of Brazil, Everett explains that speakers of all languages, in constructing their stories, omit things that all members of the culture understand. In addition, Everett discusses how some cultures can get by without words for numbers or

counting, without verbs for “to say” or “to give,” illustrating how the very nature of what’s important in a language is culturally determined. Combining anthropology, primatology, computer science, philosophy, linguistics, psychology, and his own pioneering—and adventurous—research with the Amazonian Pirahã, and using insights from many different languages and cultures, Everett gives us an unprecedented elucidation of this society-defined nature of language. In doing so, he also gives us a new understanding of how we think and who we are. Futuresteading is a practical and inspirational guide to living in a way that values tomorrow: a slower, simpler, steadier existence that is healthier for you, your home and the environment. Whether you live in a city apartment, in the suburbs or on twenty acres, the principles of futuresteading offer easy-to-understand information and hands-on ideas. Learn to grow delicious food and medicinal plants;

share rituals with loved ones through the seasons; feast on healthy home-cooked food for the family; nourish body and soul with outdoor expeditions and moments of rest; and create wonders with your hands. This welcoming handbook begins by showing how futuresteading works in an accessible and practical explainer, before venturing through six seasonal chapters - Awakening, Alive, High Heat, Harvest, The Turning, and Deep Chill - filled with inspiration for the garden, including making fences and wicking beds, along with 30+ rewarding recipes for slow, nourishing and easy meals. Grow, store, eat, preserve and share food that deepens the connections you have with your household, your soil and those around you. A collection of thrilling, original and imaginative stories from the award-winning, bestselling author of *The Slap* and *Barracuda* - a showcase all of his immense and unique storytelling talents. She helps people put their demons to

rest. But she has a few of her own... In the lockdown ward of a psychiatric hospital, Dr. Nadine Lavoie is in her element. She has the tools to help people, and she has the desire—healing broken families is what she lives for. But Nadine doesn't want to look too closely at her own past because there are whole chunks of her life that are black holes. It takes all her willpower to tamp down her recurrent claustrophobia, and her daughter, Lisa, is a runaway who has been on the streets for seven years. When a distraught woman, Heather Simeon, is brought into the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit after a suicide attempt, Nadine gently coaxes her story out of her—and learns of some troubling parallels with her own life. Digging deeper, Nadine is forced to confront her traumatic childhood, and the damage that began when she and her brother were brought by their mother to a remote commune on Vancouver Island. What happened to Nadine? Why was their family

destroyed? And why does the name Aaron Quinn, the group's leader, bring complex feelings of terror to Nadine even today? And then, the unthinkable happens, and Nadine realizes that danger is closer to home than she ever imagined. She has no choice but to face what terrifies her the most...and fight back. Sometimes you can leave the past, but you can never escape. Told with the trademark powerful storytelling that has had critics praising her work as "Gripping" (Kirkus), "Jaw-dropping" (Publishers Weekly) and "Crackling with suspense" (People magazine), ALWAYS WATCHING shows why Chevy Stevens is one of the most mesmerizing new talents of our day. "The Jesus Man tells the story of three brothers, Dominic, Tommy and Louie, who come from a Greek-Italian family haunted by its history. When Tommy is made redundant from work and can't find another job, he finds the voices in his head becoming louder and louder as he sinks inexorably into pornography,

violence and madness. Tommy snaps and murders someone who may or may not be a serial sex killer of children, and then castrates and kills himself, leaving his family numb with grief and incomprehension and at the mercy of the ensuing media feeding frenzy. The Jesus Man is told from the point of view of Louie, the youngest brother, who is struggling to make sense of Tommy's death and the kind of world in which such tragedies are commonplace."--Publisher's website. Daniel Kelly hat nur eines im Kopf: Schwimmen und Siegen. Seine Eltern tun alles für ihn, seine Geschwister sehen zu ihm auf, von seinen Freunden wird er gefeiert. Doch dann verliert er einen entscheidenden Wettkampf, und alles ändert sich. Das Verhältnis zu sich selbst und zu denen, die ihm nahestehen. Erst allmählich gelingt es ihm, eine neue Sicht auf sein Leben zu finden. (Quelle: Buchdeckel verso). Families can detonate. Some families are torn apart forever by one small act, one solitary mistake. In my family it

was a series of small explosions; consistent, passionate, pathetic. Cruel words, crude threats... We spurred each other on till we reached a crescendo of pain and we retired exhausted to our rooms, in tears or in fury. Ari is nineteen, unemployed and a poofster who doesn't want to be gay. He is looking for something - anything - to take him away from his aimless existence in suburban Melbourne. He doesn't believe in anyone or anything, except the power of music. All he wants to do is dance, take drugs, have sex and change the world. For Ari, all the orthodoxies of family, sex, politics and work have collapsed. Caught between the traditional Greek world of his parents and friends and the alluring, destructive world of clubs, chemicals and anonymous sex, all Ari can do is ease his pain in the only ways he knows how. Written in stark, uncompromising prose, Loaded is a first novel of great passion and power. At a barbecue in a suburban

Melbourne home, an unruly four-year-old boy is slapped by a man who isn't his father. It is a single act of violence, but this one slap reverberates through the lives of everyone who witnesses it happen. The fallout from this split-second incident is huge. In his controversial, award-winning novel, Christos Tsiolkas presents an apparently harmless domestic incident as seen from eight very different perspectives. The result is an unflinching interrogation of our lives today; of the modern family and domestic life in the twenty-first century, a deeply thought-provoking novel about boundaries and their limits...

Fred Schepisi's film, 'The Devil's Playground' is an intimate portrait of Tom, a thirteen-year-old struggling in spirit and body with the constraints of living in a Catholic seminary. It is also the story of the Brothers and how they cope with the demands of their faith. Made in 1976, this semi-autobiographical film established Schepisi as one of Australia's most talented directors and was one of the

first Australian films to be selected for Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival. Christos Tsiolkas invites you into his twenty-five year journey of viewing, reviewing and re-imaging the film. He remembers his first illicit experience of the film at the age of thirteen and describes how his views of it changed in later years. As he chronicles the impact of 'The Devil's Playground' on the development of his sense of self and of his love of cinema, he also explores the film in terms of sexuality, politics, history and aesthetics.

Tsiolkas' account of what 'The Devil's Playground' said and didn't say to him is a passionate tribute to the power and possibilities of cinema. From the acclaimed author of 'The Slap' comes an unsettling novel about the truths and lies of mythology and history. The basis for a major motion picture. Isaac is a photographer in his mid-30s, traveling through Europe. It is the post-Cold War Europe of a united currency, illegal

immigration, and of a globalized homogenous culture. In his mother's mountain village he encounters a Balkan vampire.

Subsequently, as his journey continues across Italy, Eastern Europe, and Britain, he discovers that ghosts keep appearing in the photographs he takes, providing clues to a family secret and tragedy. Parallel to Isaac's story, we are in the Greece of World War II. A peasant family is asked to provide protection to a Jewish boy fleeing the Germans. It is this boy who will become the vampire. From the mountains of Greece to the inner-city streets of 1960s Melbourne, we trace the journey of this malevolent force as it feeds on generation after generation of Isaac's family, seeking revenge and justice. NOW A SHOWTIME ORIGINAL TV SERIES • A “bold, absorbing novel” (The New York Times Book Review) of the lost American dream, the acts of friendship, loyalty, and love that arise from its loss, and two young men, bound to their

hometown, who crave an escape. “Powerful . . . gripping . . . in the tradition that stretches from Ernest Hemingway to Cormac McCarthy.”—The Washington Post NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times Book Review • The Washington Post • Economist • Pittsburgh Post-Gazette • Newsweek • Kansas City Star • Idaho Statesman Left alone to care for his aging father after his mother dies by suicide and his sister escapes to Yale, Isaac English longs for a life beyond his hometown, a beautiful but economically devastated Pennsylvania steel town. But when he finally sets out to leave for good, accompanied by his temperamental best friend, former high school football star Billy Poe, they are caught up in a terrible act of violence that changes their lives forever. Evoking John Steinbeck’s novels of restless lives during the Great Depression, American Rust takes us into the contemporary American heartland at a moment of

profound unrest and uncertainty about the future. It is a dark but lucid vision, a moving novel about the bleak realities that battle our desire for transcendence and the power of love and friendship to redeem us. From the international bestselling and Booker Prize nominated author of *The Slap* comes a blazingly brilliant new novel. One of the earliest Christos Tsiolkas novels - a dark, violent, pornographic and vividly imagined portrayal of family life behind closed doors. *The Jesus Man* tells the story of one family, trapped between conflicting identities - while the parents were born Greek and Italian, the three sons, Dom, Tommy and Louie, have grown up as Australians. Haunted by their history and increasing inability to relate to each other, Tommy inexorably descends into a cycle of violence, pornography and madness. When he commits a terrible crime, his family must try to come to terms with the terrifying stranger he had become, and the hell that living

had been for him. With page-turning, thrilling urgency, Tsiolkas' uncompromising and darkly humorous examination of the soulless void that life can become, detached from reality by technology, is an extremely powerful and timely novel, reminding us once again of his talent and originality as a writer. Man Booker Prize-longlisted author of *The Slap* (soon to be an NBC miniseries) returns in an "immensely moving" (*Sunday Times*) story of a young athlete's coming of age. Fourteen-year-old Daniel Kelly is special. Despite his upbringing in working-class Melbourne, he knows that his astonishing ability in the swimming pool has the potential to transform his life, silence the rich boys at the private school to which he has won a sports scholarship, and take him far beyond his neighborhood, possibly to international stardom and an Olympic medal. Everything Danny has ever done, every sacrifice his family has ever made, has been in pursuit of this dream. But what happens

when the talent that makes you special fails you? When the goal that you've been pursuing for as long as you can remember ends in humiliation and loss? Twenty years later, Dan is in Scotland, terrified to tell his partner about his past, afraid that revealing what he has done will make him unlovable. When he is called upon to return home to his family, the moment of violence in the wake of his defeat that changed his life forever comes back to him in terrifying detail, and he struggles to believe that he'll be able to make amends. Haunted by shame, Dan relives the intervening years he spent in prison, where the optimism of his childhood was completely foreign. Tender, savage, and blazingly brilliant, Barracuda is a novel about dreams and disillusionment, friendship and family, class, identity, and the cost of success. As Daniel loses everything, he learns what it means to be a good person—and what it takes to become one. Christos Tsiolkas

The Untold Story is the first in

depth systematic look at the life and work of one of Australia's most popular and controversial storytellers. From Tsiolkas' early days as a struggling writer to the present universal acclaim, his compelling untold story is at last recorded. For the first time the writer speaks candidly and de profundis about everything: his turbulent life (his childhood, adolescence and adulthood) and subjects dear to his heart (literature and criticism, identity, the state of humanity - decadence, materialism, spirituality, ethics, racism, animal liberation, intellectuals and the media - religion and death). He also reveals secrets and valuable insights about his four controversial novels which he discusses at length - from his first provocative Loaded to his latest international bestseller The Slap. Essential reading for Tsiolkas' numerous fans who have always wondered: "what is the real story behind the 'Tsiolkas phenomenon'"?

"Families can detonate. Some families are torn apart forever

by one small act, one solitary mistake. In my family it was a series of small explosions; consistent, passionate, pathetic. Cruel words, crude threats... We spurred each other on till we reached a crescendo of pain and we retired exhausted to our rooms, in tears or in fury. Ari is nineteen, unemployed and a poofster who doesn't want to be gay. He is looking for something - anything - to take him away from his aimless existence in suburban Melbourne. He doesn't believe in anyone or anything, except the power of music. All he wants to do is dance, take drugs, have sex and change the world. For Ari, all the orthodoxies of family, sex, politics and work have collapsed. Caught between the traditional Greek world of his parents and friends and the alluring, destructive world of clubs, chemicals and anonymous sex, all Ari can do is ease his pain in the only ways he knows how. Written in stark, uncompromising prose, Loaded is a first novel of great

passion and power." At a suburban barbecue, a man slaps a child who is not his own. Told from the points of view of eight people who were present. ' We are despised, yet we grow. We are tortured and crucified and yet we flourish. We are hated and still we multiply. Why is that? You must wonder, how is it we survive?' In a far corner of the Roman Empire, a radical sect is growing. Alone, unloved and battling his sexuality, Saul scrapes together a living exposing these nascent Christians, but on the road to Damascus, everything changes. Saul - now Paul - becomes drawn into this new religion and its mysterious leader, whose crucifixion leaves followers waiting in limbo for his promised return. As factions splinter and competition to create the definitive version of Christ's life grows violent, he begins to question his new faith and the man at its heart. Damascus is an unflinching dissection of doubt, faith, tyranny, revolution, cruelty and

sacrifice. A vivid and visceral novel with perennial concerns, it is a masterpiece of imagination and transformation. Longlisted for the 2015 Man Booker Prize *The Illuminations*, the fifth novel from Andrew O'Hagan, a writer "of astonishingly assured gifts" (*The New York Times Book Review*), is a work of deeply charged beauty--and one that demonstrates, with poignancy and power, that no matter how we look at it, there is no such thing as an ordinary life. Anne Quirk's life is built on stories--the lies she was told by the man she loved and the fictions she told herself to survive. Nobody remembers Anne now, but in her youth she was an artistic pioneer, a creator of groundbreaking documentary photographs. Her beloved grandson Luke, a captain with the Royal West Fusiliers in the British army, has inherited her habit of transforming reality. When his mission in Afghanistan goes horribly wrong, he returns to Scotland, where the secrets that have shaped his family begin to

emerge. He and Anne set out to confront a mystery from her past among the Blackpool Illuminations--the dazzling lights that brighten the seaside town as the season turns to winter. 'Patrick White, the un-Australian writer who did more than any other writer in the twentieth century to create an imaginative language that we can call Australian, who unshackled us from the demand that we write as the English do, who recognised, through his own alienation and also through his profound love for his partner, that we were a migrant and mongrel nation forging our own culture and our own language.' Christos Tsiolkas spent a year of 'discovery and rediscovery' reading Patrick White. In this passionate and original book, he shows how the Nobel Prize winner's work still speaks to us. In the *Writers on Writers* series, leading writers reflect on another Australian writer who has inspired and fascinated them. Provocative and crisp, these books start a fresh conversation between

past and present, shed new light on the craft of writing, and introduce some intriguing and talented authors and their work. Also in the Writers on Writers series Alice Pung on John Marsden Erik Jensen on Kate Jennings Ceridwen Dovey on J. M. Coetzee (forthcoming) Nam Le on David Malouf (forthcoming) Michelle de Kretser on Shirley Hazzard (forthcoming) Brilliant, witty, scathing, *The Australian Ugliness* is the classic postwar account of Australian society, how we live in the environments we create, and the consequences of our failure to think about how we live. A major biography--the first comprehensive new assessment to be published in decades--of the brilliant work and restless life of Paul Cezanne, the most influential painter of his time, whose vision revolutionized the role of the painter. From the international bestselling and Booker Prize nominated author of *The Slap* comes a blazingly brilliant new novel. Winner of the 2006 Age Fiction Prize

Winner of the 2006 Melbourne Best Writing Award Part long-forgotten myth, part meditation on the violence and tragedy of contemporary Europe, *Dead Europe* is an unsettling story about blood lust and blood revenge; a novel of blazing brilliance from the acclaimed author of *The Slap*. Isaac, a young Australian photographer, is travelling through Europe. His whole life he has longed for the sophistication and wealth of the Europe of his father's stories, the Europe at the centre of civilization and culture. But behind the facade of a unified and globalized contemporary society, he finds a history-blasted wasteland, a place forever condemned by the ghosts of its unspeakable past. In the mountain village in the Balkans where his mother was born, he unearths ancient terrors that have not been laid to rest, and perhaps never can be. 'Patrick White, the un-Australian writer who did more than any other writer in the twentieth century to create an imaginative language that we

can call Australian, who unshackled us from the demand that we write as the English do, who recognised, through his own alienation and also through his profound love for his partner, that we were a migrant and mongrel nation forging our own culture and our own language.' Christos Tsiolkas spent a year of 'discovery and rediscovery' reading Patrick White. In this passionate and original book, he shows how the Nobel Prize winner's work still speaks to us. 0 Daniel Kelly, a talented young swimmer, has one chance to escape his working-class upbringing. His astonishing ability in the pool should drive him to fame and fortune, as well as his revenge on the rich boys at the private school to which he has won a sports scholarship. But when he melts down at his first big international championship and comes only fifth, he begins to destroy everything he has fought for and turn on everyone around him. 'Barracuda' is a powerful and moving novel of sport and

violence, class and education, dreams and disillusionment; it is the story of a young man who eventually comes to realise that it is in family and friendship that his strongest identity lies. Meet fourteen-year-old Gary. A self-described "tree-toad," a sly and endearing geek, Gary has many unwieldy passions, chief among them his cousin Kate, his Underwood typewriter and the soft-porn masterpiece, High School Orgies. The folks of Lake Wobegon don't have much patience for a kid's ungodly obsessions, and so Gary manages to filter the hormonal earthquake that is puberty and his hopeless devotion to glamorous, rebellious Kate through his fantastic yarns. With every marvellous story he moves a few steps closer to becoming a writer. And when Kate gets herself into trouble with the local baseball star, Gary also experiences the first pangs of a broken heart. With his trademark gift for treading "a line delicate as a cobweb between satire and sentiment"(Cleveland Plain

Dealer), Garrison Keillor brilliantly captures a newly minted post-war America and delivers an unforgettable comedy about a writer coming of age in the rural Midwest. The first volume of Alan Ayckbourn's collected work contains his morality plays from the 1980s. It includes the plays A Chorus of Disapproval, A Small Family Business, Henceforward . . . , and Man of the Moment. From the award-winning author of The Slap comes a powerfully moving story of forgiveness and a young man's struggle towards maturity. His whole life, Danny Kelly has wanted just one thing: to win Olympic gold. Everything he's ever done--every thought, every dream, every action--has taken him closer to that moment of glory, of vindication, when the world would see him for what he is: the fastest, the strongest and the best. His life has been a preparation for that moment. His parents struggle so that he can attend the most prestigious private school, with the finest swimming program. Danny

loathes it there and is bullied and shunned as an outsider, but his coach is the best, and he knows Danny is too--better than all those rich boys, those pretenders. Danny's win-at-all-costs ferocity gradually wins favour with the coolest boys--he's Barracuda, he's the psycho, he's everything they want to be but don't have the guts to become. He's going to show them all. Should we teach our children to win, or should we teach them to live? How do we make and remake our lives? Can we atone for the past? Can we overcome shame? And what does it mean to be a good person? A searing and provocative novel by the acclaimed author of international bestseller The Slap, Barracuda is an unflinching look at modern society, at our hopes and dreams, our friendships and our families. It is about class and sport and politics and migration and education. It is about family and friendship and love and work, the identities we inhabit and discard, the means by which

we fill the holes at our centre. Barracuda is brutal, tender and blazingly brilliant--everything we have come to expect from this fearless vivisector of our lives and our world. This first in-depth study of Christos Tsiolkas's entire corpus provides an understanding of his position in relation to Modernism, thereby drawing out his points about character, setting and politics, illuminating his ideas about the individual and the community might have in our reading of contemporary Australia and contemporary world literature.

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