

May 2026

Kia ora koutou,

Earlier this month I had the privilege to partake in the Literary Programmers Roundtable in Melbourne. I met with various literary organisations, including the *Melbourne Athenaeum*, the *State Library*, *The Wheeler Centre* and the new library and community space *narm ngarrgu*- which honours and celebrates First Nation communities. I was joined by six other candidates from the UK, Poland and the US. We discussed best practises around programming events. This has been a fascinating and nourishing time that has sparked a lot of new ideas. I look forward to sharing these ideas with you and the committee in the coming weeks. If you would like to hear more about this trip, please feel free to come in and have a chat with me.

Holly

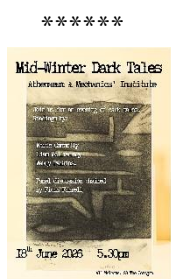


What's Happening

The first in our series of creative writing workshop starts on **Wednesday 10th June**.

We have already booked out June and July places! However, if you would like to go on the waiting list please get in touch. The workshops will be running throughout the year.

librarian@dunedinathenaeum.org.nz



Mid-Winter Dark Tales

Join us for an evening of dark tales. Readings from Marie Connolly, Liam McIlvanney and Wendy Parkins.

Followed by a panel discussion chaired by Fiona Farrell.

Thursday 18th June

Doors at 5pm 5.30 start.

All welcome!

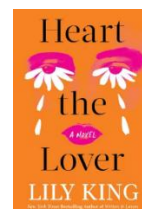
Book Review

Heart the Lover By Lily King

Heart the Lover is a tale about love, relationships and literature and the ways in which some of these things fall away and others are everlasting. A classic girl meets boy situation, that is infused with awkward interactions, literary

pretentiousness- they are university English students after all- and relationship failings. There is craft in Kings approach to writing, having been a literature student and teacher herself, however there is nothing that memorable going on here.

This book had good advertising, racy content, love, sickness, aging all the elements that make up a life, and a best-selling novel. However, I didn't really feel anything for the protagonist Jordan, she felt a little flat, a little bit clique. It's rather boring reading a book where you don't really care about the characters. Yet, I was propelled through the book in the way you are when you watch something "trashy" on Netflix. Could this book be a Netflix drama? Yes, I imagine it could be quite good.



Reviews show that readers have loved this book. I have passed time reading it. Will I remember it in a couple of years? Probably not. Was I mildly entertained? Yes. Would I recommend this novel- yes if you like a tale about love. It's a light look into the hearts of two people whose love remains despite their lives taking different paths. Perhaps, 'It's just this long tender farewell to your youth'. One that can end in tears, which is what some readers have reported shedding.