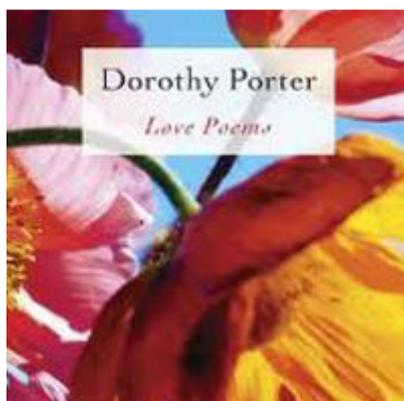


LGBTI context and community drags down the realism of the earlier novel
Madelaine Imber

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Love Poems
By Dorothy Porter
Black Inc. Books

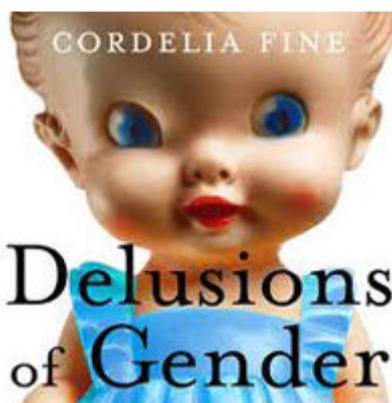
For all those who have loved Dorothy Porter, or are yet to, this is the perfect ode to the late poet's work, giving a little taste of her poems, libretti and song lyrics from the start of her career to her final days.

Love was a theme Porter explored in all its forms right throughout work. She wasn't only interested in the soppy, greeting card platitudes of love but the dirty, sexy, darker things we do in love's name.

'I never knew poetry could be as sticky as sex...' is the final line of my all favourite Porter poem, Sex and Poetry (included in Love Poems) and it sums up her work perfectly for me. Poetry done well can be incredibly hot! It can also be slow and erotic...

With a forward written by Porter's long-term partner Andrea Goldsmith, this is a touching and poignant celebration of an Australian literary great. - *Amy Henderson*

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Delusions of Gender
By Cordelia Fine
Allen & Unwin

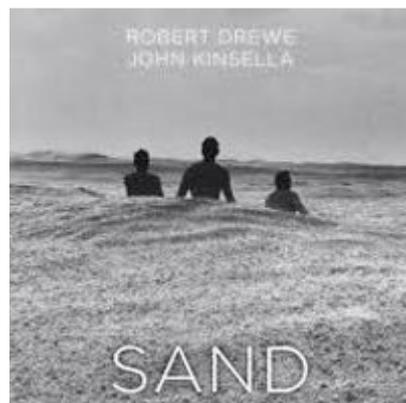
Is gender a social construct or is gender identity hard-wired into our brains? Pop psychologists would sometimes have us believe that there are intrinsic differences between a male and a female brain, leading to such simplified catchphrases as 'men are from Mars and women are from Venus'.

We may think that society has evolved somewhat, however there are still few women working in the fields of science and engineering and fewer men working in childcare. Is this because we subconsciously buy into common myths about the sexes just being good at different things?

So many of the pseudo-scientific claims about the difference between the sexes don't acknowledge the enormous impact culture has on gender and how much of what we consider to be instinctive is actually contrived.

Through developmental psychology, neuroscience and social psychology Cordelia Fine smashes some of the most ingrained sexual myths with humour and honesty. *Delusions of Gender* is a well researched, interesting book sure to resonate with many. - *Amy Henderson*

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Sand
by **Robert Drewe & John Kinsella**
Fremantle Press

Significant other a lover of really big thoughts? Why not bring them down to Earth this Christmas with the elegant brilliance of *Sand*, a mash of memoir, myth and meditation from two of Australia's most celebrated writers.

Robert Drewe digs deep into the rich humus of his life to provide a set of evocative recollections, precise as his style. Kinsella, on the other hand, excels at delivering poem after poem rich and dirty with life. *Perth Poem* in particular is to be celebrated. Our west coast hive of industry and isolation is built on sand in its many forms, and as such our very foundations can shift or topple at the Earth's whim. Or at least that's the majestic irony Drewe and Kinsella hint at. Inspired. - *Scott-Patrick Mitchell*

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