

EXTRA BOOKS



With the band ... in 1969, Sam Cutler tour managed the Rolling Stones (above)

Photo: Reuters

# Almost famous —

**You Can't Always Get What You Want**

Sam Cutler  
(William Heinemann, \$34.95)  
Reviewed by Robyn Doreian

THERE is an underlying sadness to Sam Cutler's memoir. As the 65-year-old recounts a rock'n'roll odyssey that spanned managing the Rolling Stones' 1969 stateside tour, becoming the unofficial eighth member of the Grateful Dead, mountains of "Peruvian flakes", unimagined sexual adventures and interludes with Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix, you get the feeling that Cutler's escapades left him hollow.

His story begins with his birth in Hertfordshire, England. Adopted at three, Cutler learned 12 years later that his Irish mother was descended from a gypsy family and worked as a government typist. In wartime London, she tried to raise her illegitimate son but surrendered him so that he could have a better future. Cutler's father, a Jewish mathematician, had died serving in the Royal Air Force.

Passionate about reading, music and socialism, his adoptive parents, Ernie and Dora Cutler, raised him in Woodford, Essex. Ernie died when Cutler was eight and for many years

the boy's most-treasured possession was his father's old tobacco tin.

When his mother remarried, books, alcohol and jazz provided refuge from his "despised" stepfather. Saturday nights were spent at a West Croydon pub where he first saw blues great Alexis Korner and got high.

Reading *On The Road* launched Cutler's own great American dream. Given his love of guitars and lust for girls, an unconventional life in the music business beckoned.

After a couple of years teaching, an LSD trip helped Cutler towards a life of hedonism and music. By volunteering at a music venue in Notting Hill, Cutler befriended Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason, met Korner and managed several of the bluesman's gigs.

From there, he worked for Blackhill Enterprises, which managed Marc Bolan and Pink Floyd, and arranged concerts in London's parks. Cutler helped with the Stones' 1969 Hyde Park concert, where 10,000 butterflies were released to commemorate the life of guitarist Brian Jones, and was later offered the job of tour manager for the Stones. His brief was to "look after Mick Jagger and Keith Richards and Mick Taylor at a house in Los Angeles and all the musicians while on tour".

Cutler recalls Jagger was so in control of his musical and business affairs he "could have been a



## > DELIA FALCONER THE BOOKS THAT CHANGED ME

**The Aeneid**

**>Virgil**  
I WAS an unenthusiastic scholar when it came to Latin grammar and vocabulary, but my life changed when a gifted teacher began to teach us about scansion, the use of sound and rhythm in Virgil's extraordinary epic. The ability to manipulate rhythmic patterns (spondees and dactyls) was the most prized literary achievement among Latin writers. Having my eyes opened to the sound of writing, and the importance of syntax, was probably the most exciting and useful

thing I learned in high school. This took me to the very heart and soul of the English language.

**Voss**

**>Patrick White**  
Not my favourite White, but the first I read and enjoyed. Its heroes Voss and Laura Trevelyan led me to White's other nonconformist dreamers seeking a spiritual connection with the Australian landscape. Having endured a repressive, sports-mad school I felt an instant connection with White's

celebration of characters who refused to knuckle down to the average. His novels, especially *The Vivisector*, also remain my benchmark images of Sydney as a city of cat ladies and monstero deliciosos. *Riders In The Chariot* is my most-loved novel of White's, for its astonishing portrait of gentle, touched Miss Hare.

**Against Nature**

**>Joris-Karl Huysmans**  
Twenty was the perfect age to read a book that broke all the rules. Decadent and plotless, Huysmans' French fin-de-

siecle novel about a man who inhabits an aesthetic world of his own creation was the antithesis of everything I'd been taught to value in a well-made story.

**The Road To Botany Bay**

**>Paul Carter**  
Having been entirely uninterested



by Australian history until my mid-20s, reading Carter's work was a revelation. It was one of the first to turn away from the textbook achievements of explorers and settlers to study our past as a place of uncertainty and imagination. Carter took our story back to the moment when early settlers were not so much "discovering" as inventing this nation; a time when things could well have turned

**> TOP 10 FOOD AND DRINK**

**4 Ingredients, 2**  
K. McCosker & R. Bermingham  
(4 Ingredients, \$19.99)

**4 Ingredients**  
K. McCosker & R. Bermingham  
(4 Ingredients, \$17.95)

**Cooking for Friends**  
Gordon Ramsay  
(HarperCollins, \$49.99)

**James Halliday Australian Wine Companion 2009** James Halliday (Hardie Grant, \$34.95)

**Marie Claire Fresh and Fast** Michele Cranston (Murdoch Books, \$39.95)

**Fire: A World of Flavour**  
Christine Manfield  
(Lantern, \$99.95)

**Gordon Ramsay's Healthy Appetite** Gordon Ramsay (Quadrille, \$45)

**A Year in a Bottle**  
Sally Wise  
(ABC Books, \$24.95)

**The Complete Book of Modern Entertaining** (ACP Publishing, \$49.95)

**Ultimate Kitchen Companion** (Murdoch Books, \$69.95)



**> NON-FICTION**

**Growing Great Girls**  
Ian and Mary Grant  
(Doubleday, \$29.95)

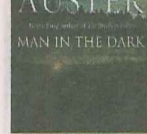


READING this book by New Zealand parenting guru Ian Grant and his wife Mary I was reminded of a nursery rhyme: "What are little girls made of? Sugar and spice, and everything nice". Not that this follow-up to Grant's *Growing Great Boys* isn't useful, but at times the portrayal of girls seems old-fashioned: "We all know there is something unique about the nature of girls, and it is right to celebrate their emerging femininity." I've certainly noticed my 16-month-old daughter chooses dolls over dump trucks, but there seems to be a focus on emphasising femininity rather than simply celebrating it.

Eleanor Limprecht

**> FICTION**

**Man In The Dark**  
Paul Auster  
(Faber, \$29.95)



PROBABLY best known for his screenplay *Smoke*, Paul Auster has come up with a thought-provoking new novel that centres on an imaginary 21st-century civil war in the United States. As conflicts develop around him, retired book critic Augustus Brill is recovering from a car accident at his daughter's home. When sleep refuses to come to him, he tells himself stories designed to eliminate thoughts of his wife's recent death and the murder of his granddaughters' boyfriend. This is a bleak and challenging work, while at the same time offering some rays of hope. Masterful stuff.

Winsor Dobbin

**> FOOD**

**Ripailles Traditional French Cuisine**  
Stephane Reynaud  
(Murdoch Books, \$79.95)



NOTHING with a pulse escapes Stephane Reynaud in this beautifully crafted feast of cooking. In many ways it pays homage to the traditions of French cuisine, transporting the reader to a quiet little hamlet somewhere. This book is about the importance of cooking in culture. Divine recipes are illustrated in stunning photography and unique drawings that undress all parts of all animals worth putting in a pot. By the time I had flipped the last page I felt I had trapped, killed and skinned a rabbit with my bare hands. Luckily, I was very hungry.

B. K. Swinson