



## reading room reviews

### **Closed Fists, Open Heart** Danny Green with Daniel Lane



(ABC Books, \$32.95)

Even if you don't see knocking other people out as sport, this memoir by boxing champ Danny Green gives great insight into the mind of a professional who lives by instinct. It was an instinctive fighting style that took Danny Green to the height of success when he won the World Light Heavyweight title in December 2007, and it was instinct that told him to hang up his gloves only a few months later. Green goes into great detail here about the feelings that led to his decision, while talking about his loves and passions.

### **A Brief History of Montmaray** Michelle Cooper



(Random House, \$17.95)

International buzz is brewing about this debut by Sydney author Michelle Cooper, a teen read which has already been snapped up in a pre-publication two-book deal in the US. It is a coming-of-age story in the voice of Sophie FitzOsborne, who lives in a castle on the tiny Island of Montmaray with her tomboy sister Henry, her cousin Veronica, and her mad uncle John. The year is 1936 and the world is on the verge of terrible turmoil, and the arrival of two strangers threatens their little world. A nail-biting adventure.

### **Naked** Edited by Kylie Ladd and Leigh Langtree



(Allen & Unwin, \$32.95)

Anyone whose life has been touched by infidelity won't fail to be fascinated by these snapshots of human behaviour. The editors, who put ads in magazines and newspapers asking for stories of infidelity from the general public, pose some curious questions about cheaters and the cheated-on, starting with what constitutes infidelity in the first place — does it have to be physical, or can it happen in the mind? All the contributions are anonymous, and the writers give full rein to their grief, guilt, passion and desire. At times painful to read, but compelling.

### **Air Kisses** Zoe Foster



(Michael Joseph, \$32.95)

Relationship hassles, fabulous make-up and wardrobe, drinking too much in clubs, looking for Mr Right, loads of text messaging, loving your best friend's guts: *Air Kisses* is definitely 20-something territory, written by a magazine beauty editor, about a magazine beauty editor, for people who read magazine beauty columns. Hannah Atkins is dumped — by text — and everything looks like it is falling apart until she applies some hard and fast rules about life and then breaks them all. Zoe Foster ticks all the boxes for high-quality fluff with *Air Kisses*. The title, by the way, says much.

### **Gorgeously Green** Sophie Uliano



(Collins, \$26.95)

Of all the books about the environment, this appears to be one of the most frivolous, and it will probably be one of the most effective. California girl Sophie Uliano sets out eight simple steps to lead an Earth-friendly life and starts with an important topic for glamour girls — their beauty regime, including some frightening facts about the ingredients we slather on our faces and bodies. She goes on to encourage readers to make small changes in their household, garden, food, and body management. There is also a foreword by actor Julia Roberts.