**Saturday, April 23, 2011**

**Anita’s Black Book Challenge (BBC)**

Most of us have heard of the [BBC’s Book Challenge](http://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/131080-bbc-challenge) listing 100 books. Somewhere (probably on Facebook) it was claimed that most people had only read 6 of the 100. When I first read the list I wondered what an Indigenous list might look like, and how many books most Australians would have read in terms of home grown Indigenous literature.

I’ve been meaning to do this for a long time, and with prompting by others, I have finally put together a list of my favourite Indigenous authored books across genres: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's, published plays and anthologies. This list is by no means definitive, with over 5000 published Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Australia (see [Black Words](http://www.austlit.edu.au/specialistDatasets/BlackWords)), my list is endless, but scanning my bookshelf quickly, these are easily some of my ‘must reads’ that I recommend to you.

Many of the authors I have listed below have many published works across genres, but I limited myself to one book per author. Please google the authors to see what other significant titles you might engage with.

As you’ll see, I’ve only listed 99 titles, and I’ve left 100 for YOU to fill in. I want to know what book you would add to my list... and so my blog visitors can have another title to get hold of and enjoy

**Anita’s 100 (less one) Black Book Choice list is:**

1. [Benang,](http://www.fremantlepress.com.au/books/748) Kim Scott
2. [Bitin’ Back,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/583/Bitin) Vivienne Cleven
3. [Bridge of Triangles,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/251/Bridge%20Of%20Triangles) John Muk Muk Burke
4. Butterfly Song, [Terri Janke](http://www.terrijanke.com.au/%20)
5. Carpentaria, [Alexis Wright](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexis_Wright)
6. Digger J Jones, [Richard Frankland](http://www.goldenseahorse.com.au/richard-j-frankland)
7. [Every Secret Thing,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/1069/Every%20Secret%20Thing) Marie Mankara
8. [Home,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/687/Home) Larissa Behrendt
9. [Long Time Now: stories of the Dreamtime, the here and now,](http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/1035479) Alf Taylor
10. [Not Quite Men, No Longer Boys,](http://shopping.iad.edu.au/store/viewItem.shop?idProduct=15) Kenny Laughton
11. [Pemulwuy: the rainbow warrior,](http://epress.anu.edu.au/apps/bookworm/view/Aboriginal%2BHistory%2BVolume%2B34%2C%2B2010/2641/review05.xhtml) Eric Wilmott
12. Shark, [Bruce Pascoe](http://brucepascoe.com.au/)
13. [Swallow the Air](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/764/Swallow%20The%20Air%20), Tara June Winch
14. [Sweet Guy](http://shopping.iad.edu.au/store/viewItem.shop?idProduct=3), Jared Thomas
15. [Sweet Water, Stolen Land,](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?products_id=76%20) Philip McLaren
16. [The Kadaitcha Sung,](http://www.amazon.com/Kadaitcha-Sung-Sam-Watson/dp/0140111727) Sam Watson
17. Too Flash, [Melissa Lucashenko](http://www.melissalucashenko.com.au/books.html%20)
18. A Bastard Like Me, [Charles Perkins](http://www.perkinstrust.com.au/charlieperkins.html)
19. [Aunty Rita,](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/auntierita.html) Rita and Jackie Huggins
20. [Born a half-caste,](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/bornhalfcaste.html) Marnie Kennedy
21. Broken Dreams, [Bill Dodd](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Author.aspx/1229/Dodd%2C%20Bill)
22. [Busted Out Laughing](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=4&products_id=4), Dot Collard and Beryl Harp
23. [Don’t take your love to town,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/818/Don) Ruby Langford Ginibi
24. [Follow the rabbit proof fence,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/656/Follow%20The%20Rabbit%20Proof%20Fence) Doris Pilkington
25. Full Circle, [Edie Wright](http://www.api-network.com/main/index.php?apply=reviews&webpage=api_reviews&flexedit=&flex_password=&menu_label=&menuID=homely&menubox=&Review=5117%20)
26. [Forcibly Removed,](http://www.api-network.com/main/index.php?apply=reviews&webpage=api_reviews&flexedit=&flex_password=&menu_label=&menuID=homely&menubox=&Review=5261%20) Albert Holt
27. [Grease and Ochre,](http://www.booksandcollectibles.com.au/dump/Astrolabe_Booksellers/books-0002/29007.html) Patsy Cameron
28. [Hey Mum, What’s a half-caste?](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=4&products_id=113) Lorraine McGee-Sippel
29. [If Everyone Cared,](http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/9554329) Margaret Tucker
30. [I’m the one who knows this country,](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/imtheone.html%20) Jessie Lennon
31. [Is that you, Ruthie?](http://www.booktopia.com.au/is-that-you-ruthie-/prod9780702234156.html) Ruth Hegarty
32. [Jinangga,](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=4&products_id=73) Monty Walgar
33. Kakadu Man, [Bill Neidjie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Bill_Neidjie%20)
34. Karobran, [Monica Clare](http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE1087b.htm)
35. [Life B’long Ali Drummond: a life in the Torres Strait,](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/lifeblong.html) Samantha Faulkner with Ali Drummond
36. [Love Against the Law,](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/loveagainstlaw.html) Tex and Nelly Camfoo
37. [Me, Antman and Fleebag,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/837/Me%2C%20Antman%20-%20Fleabag) Gayle Kennedy
38. [Many Lifetimes,](http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2006/1608366.htm) Audrey Evans
39. Maybe Tomorrow, [Boori Monty Pryor](http://jd-associates.com.au/authors/author/boori-monty-pryor/%20)
40. [My Past, their future: stories from Cape Barren Island](http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/1486693), Molly Mallett
41. [My Place,](http://www.fremantlepress.com.au/books/906) Sally Morgan
42. Pride and Prejudice, [Ida West](http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/W/West%20Ida.htm)
43. [Shadow Lines](http://anitaheissblog.blogspot.com.au/2011/04/%20http%3A/www.fremantlepress.com.au/books/biography/980), Stephen Kinnane
44. [Songman : The Story of an Aboriginal Elder of Uluru,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Randall_%28Indigenous_Australian%29) Bob Randall
45. [Talking About Celia,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/356/Talking%20About%20Celia) Jeanie Bell
46. [The N Word,](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?products_id=46) Stephen Hagan
47. Through My Eyes, [Ella Simon](http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE1002b.htm)
48. [This is my word,](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=4&products_id=8) Magdeleine Williams
49. [Unbranded,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/193/Unbranded%20) Herb Wharton
50. Wandering Girl, Glenyse Ward
51. [When you grow up,](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=4&products_id=72) Connie McDonald
52. [Wisdom Man,](http://www.wisdommanbook.com/banjo.html) Banjo Clarke
53. [Wyndham Yella Fella](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=4&products_id=65), Reginald Birch
54. [Windradyne: A Wiradjuri Warrior,](http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/12581755?q=windradyne&c=book) Mary Coe
55. [Yami: the autobiography of Yami Lester](http://shopping.iad.edu.au/store/viewItem.shop?idProduct=13%20)
56. [Anonymous Premonition,](http://www.penguin.com.au/products/9780702235719/anonymous-premonition) Yvette Holt
57. [Black Woman, Black Life,](http://www.kuracca.com/creative.php?cat=2) Kerry Reed-Gilbert
58. [Blue Grass,](http://peterminter.com/?page_id=29) Peter Minter
59. [Dreaming in Urban Areas,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/984/Dreaming%20In%20Urban%20Areas) Lisa Bellear
60. [Holocaust Island,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/167/Holocaust%20Island%20) Graeme Dixon
61. [Little Bit Long Time,](http://australia.poetryinternationalweb.org/piw_cms/cms/cms_module/index.php?obj_id=18971%20) Ali Cobby Eckermann
62. [New and Selected Poems : Munaldjali, Mutuerjaraera,](http://www.fishpond.com.au/Books/New-and-Selected-Poems-Lionel-Fogarty-Sharon-Hodgson-Illustrated-by/9781875657186) Lionel Fogarty
63. [Post me to the Prime Minister,](http://www.fishpond.com.au/Books/Post-Me-to-Prime-Minister-Romain-Moreton/9781864650617) Romaine Moreton
64. [Skin Painting,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/Book.aspx/881/Skin%20Painting) Elizabeth Hodgson
65. [Smoke Encrypted Whispers,](http://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/book.aspx/731/Smoke%20Encrypted%20Whispers) Samuel Wagan Watson
66. The Imprint of Infinity, [Jennifer Martiniello](http://www.kemarrearts.com.au/%20)
67. We Are Going, [Kath Walker (Oodgeroo Noonuccal)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oodgeroo_Noonuccal)
68. [Bush games and knucklebones,](http://www.fishpond.com.au/Books/Bush-Games-and-Knucklebones-Doris-Kartinyeri/9781875641819) Doris Kartinyeri
69. [Down the hole,](http://shopping.iad.edu.au/store/viewItem.shop?idProduct=22) Edna Tantjingu Williams and Eileen Wani Wingfield illustrated by Kunyi June-Anne McInerney
70. [Down River: the Wilcannia Mob Story](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/downriver.html%20)
71. [Jalygurr : Aussie Animal Rhymes : Poems for Kids,](http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE1202b.htm) Pat Torres
72. [Little Platypus and the Fire Spirit,](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/littleplatypus.html) Mundara Koodang
73. [Maralinga – The Anangu Story](http://www.allenandunwin.com/default.aspx?page=94&book=9781741756210%20)
74. [Nanna’s Land,](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=1&products_id=41) Delphine Sarago-Kendron
75. [Papunya School Book of Country and History](http://www.allenandunwin.com/default.aspx?page=94&book=9781865085258)
76. [Rain Flower,](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/loveagainstlaw.html%20) Mary Duroux
77. [Tell me why,](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=1&products_id=22%20) Sarah Jackson
78. [The Cowboy Frog,](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/index.php?cPath=1&&page=3) Hylton Laurel
79. [The Legend of the Seven Sisters, a traditional Aboriginal Story from Western Australia,](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/sevensisters.html) May O’Brien and Sue Wyatt
80. [The Old Frangipani Tree at Flying Fish Point,](http://anitaheissblog.blogspot.com.au/2011/04/%20http%3A/www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=1&products_id=104) Trina Saffioti
81. [Wandihnu and the Dugong,](http://www.magabala.com/catalog_new/product_info.php?cPath=1&products_id=91) Elizabeth and Wandihnu Wymarra
82. [When I was little like you,](http://www.allenandunwin.com/default.aspx?page=94&book=9781741142563) Mary Malbunka
83. [Yarning Strong series,](http://www.lagunabaypublishing.com/book.php?id=58%20) various authors
84. Yinti, [Jimmy Pike](http://www.fishpond.com.au/c/Books/a/Jimmy%2BPike)
85. [Black Medea,](http://www.currency.com.au/search.aspx?type=author&author=Wesley+Enoch) Wesley Enoch
86. [Bran Nue Dae,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bran_Nue_Dae) Jimmy Chi
87. [The Cake Man,](http://www.currency.com.au/product_detail.aspx?productid=1346&ReturnUrl=/indigenous-themes.aspx) Robert Merritt
88. The Cherry Pickers, [Kevin Gilbert](http://www.harpercollins.com.au/authors/50009292/Kevin_Gilbert/index.aspx%20)
89. [I Don’t Wanna Play House,](http://www.currency.com.au/product_detail.aspx?productid=1405&ReturnUrl=/indigenous-themes.aspx) Tammy Anderson
90. [The Dreamers,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Davis_%28playwright%29) Jack Davis
91. [Stolen,](http://www.currency.com.au/product_detail.aspx?productid=441&ReturnUrl=/indigenous-themes.aspx) Jane Harrison
92. [Holding Up The Sky – Aboriginal Women Speak](http://www.dymocks.com.au/ProductDetails/ProductDetail.aspx?R=9781875641437)
93. Legendary Tales of the Australian Aborigines, [David Unaipon](http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A120339b.htm%20)
94. [Indigenous Australian Voices: A reader](http://www.amazon.com/Indigenous-Australian-Voices-Jennifer-Sabbioni/dp/0813524962), Sabbioni, Jennifer; Schaffer, Kay & Smith, Sidionie.
95. [Meanjin: Blak Times: Indigenous Australia,](http://www.panmacmillan.com.au/display_title.asp?ISBN=9780522852288&Author=Literary%20Magazine) Minter, Peter (ed)
96. [Macquarie PEN Anthology of Aboriginal Literature,](http://www.allenandunwin.com/default.aspx?page=94&book=9781741754384) Heiss and Minters (eds)
97. [Skins: Contemporary Indigenous Writing](http://shopping.iad.edu.au/store/viewItem.shop?idProduct=42), Akiwenzie-Damm, Kateri and Douglas, Josie
98. Those Who Remain Will Always Remember: An Anthology of Aboriginal Writing, Brewster, Anne; van den Berg, Rosemary and O’Neill, Angeline (eds.) those who remain will always remember
99. [Untreated](http://shopping.iad.edu.au/store/viewItem.shop?idProduct=43%20)

WHAT NOW: Take this list to your own local library, school library, uni library and see how many of these books they’ve got in their catalogues. Ask them to order in the ones that are missing (if appropriate – clearly adult novels aren’t appropriate for primary schools).

Tell me how many of the 99 you've read AND tell me what book you would add to this make the 100!

Oh, as you’ll see I didn’t add any of my own books, but if you want to check them out you can click my website [bookshelf here.](http://www.anitaheiss.com/bookshelf.html)

HAPPY READING! And HAPPY EASTER!

Anita

[Dr Anita Heiss](http://www.blogger.com/profile/10092628239600493279)at[Saturday, April 23, 2011](http://anitaheissblog.blogspot.com.au/2011/04/anitas-bbc-black-book-choice-reading.html?m=1)