

# books

## bestsellers

### THE DA VINCI CODE

Dan Brown  
Corgi, \$19.95  
Cheaper edition of  
worldwide bestseller.

### OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

Marian Keyes  
Michael Joseph, \$29.95  
The ups and downs of  
love and publishing.

### MY SISTER'S KEEPER

Jodi Picoult  
Allen & Unwin, \$29.95  
A family must make a  
difficult decision.

### JUST ONE LOOK

Harlan Coben  
Orion, \$29.95  
A wife searches for her  
missing husband.

# In her own right

## MRS NEWTON

By June Newton  
Taschen Books, \$85

## Nicki Gostin

June Newton was married to the legendary photographer Helmut Newton for more than 50 years. She was crucial to his career: his most trusted confidante, she also edited all his exhibitions and books, including the 464-page, 21-kilogram *Sumo*.

But June Newton, born in Melbourne, is also an accomplished photographer in her own right. Shooting under the "nom de lens" Alice Springs, she has had shows all over the world and released her own photography books.

Now she has published a sumptuous coffee-table book called *Mrs Newton*, a wonderful mix of professional portraits, personal snapshots and diary extracts of her Melbourne childhood and life spent with the photographic king of kink.

It is also a great read. Her sense of irony and honesty clearly shines through. Not many women matter of factly own up to having had a facelift. And there are wonderful tales of growing up in Kangaroo Ground and time spent treading Mel-

bourne's theatre boards as an accomplished actor. The cover of the book is a seductive June (left) when she played Salome at the Arrow Theatre in 1951. She was supposed to perform as Joan of Arc for Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh but they never made it to Melbourne. When they arrived in Kenya, news came of the death of the King, George VI, and they flew back to London.

She met and married Helmut in 1948. There is a wonderful passage describing her mother's less-than-thrilled reaction at having a Jewish foreigner for a son-in-law. Her mother tried to talk Newton out of the marriage by revealing that June couldn't cook, wash or darn socks. "Then she'll bloody well learn to cook and darn and wash and iron my shirts," he answered.

The couple eventually moved to Europe. June writes candidly of feeling depressed and unfulfilled while living in Paris, which only lifted when Helmut gave her some paints. But an entirely new career began because of a rather nasty cold. Helmut, laid up in bed with flu and unable to complete an assignment for a Gitanes cigarette advertisement, taught June how to load a camera and use the light meter, and so a new photographer was born.

"I took the picture. We sent it to the client and

