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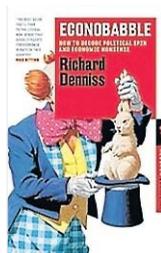
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## IN SHORT NON-FICTION

REVIEWS BY **STEVEN CARROLL**

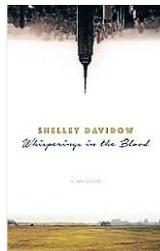


**PICK OF THE WEEK**

### **Econobabble**

**RICHARD DENNISS**  
REDBACK QUARTERLY, \$19.99

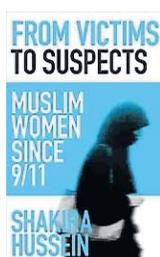
If it can be said that lead guitarists specialise in making the essentially simple look complex - what of economists? This highly accessible and entertaining study, which concentrates on the language of conservative economics, dismantles the mumbo-jumbo that we hear all the time - economists being likened to medieval high priests babbling in Latin to an illiterate congregation. And this doesn't mean the congregation is stupid, just that it doesn't speak Latin, the whole exercise being about control rather than enlightenment. Jargon-free - except when sending up jargon - there are some great passages where we are given the official version of a situation followed by the plain-speaking version: "markets responded angrily", for example, becoming "rich foreigners reacted ...". A sort of "little red book" we should all have.



### **Whisperings in the Blood**

**SHELLEY DAVIDOW**  
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND PRESS, \$29.95

A violin bought by Shelley Davidow's great-grandfather for her father becomes one of the unifying motifs in a tale that spans a century and takes in four continents through some of the most tumultuous events in history. In 1913 Jacob Davidow, clutching his violin, left his Lithuanian village in the wake of murderous pogroms for the West. After England, and after the death of his wife, he fetched up in America, leaving his two children in an orphanage. His daughter, Bertha, eventually migrated to South Africa to marry a man she had never met, and the author's father was born. The story is far too complex to be compressed into this space, but it is essentially an immigrant tale, Davidow tracing the ripple effect of Jacob's decision through the generations, inventively weaving novelistic techniques into the memoir.



### **From Victims to Suspects**

**SHAKIRA HUSSEIN**  
NEWSOUTH, \$24.99

At the core of this study is the argument that there has been a shift in attitude - both from Muslims and non-Muslims - towards Muslim women. More traditionally, and this is consistent with the 19th-century orientalist attitude, Muslim women have been seen as victims in need of rescuing from oppression, lately evidenced in calls for the banning of the burqa. More recently, and especially since September 11, Muslim women have been increasingly portrayed as a threat to Western ways and the gains of feminism. It's a paradox and Muslim women are caught in the middle. This measured study takes the reader to Afghanistan, where Shakira Hussein met women of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), to Pakistan, America, and here, where she attended a Reclaim Australia rally.



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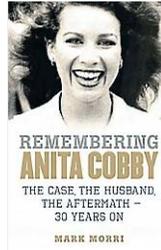
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## Remembering Anita Cobby

MARK MORRI

EBURY PRESS, \$34.99

This is the second of recent publications about the horrendous murder of Anita Cobby in February 1986. It shocked the nation then and still does. This study concentrates on the effect the murder had on her husband - the author having known him for many years. Mark Morri recounts the case, the investigation and the trial, while also focusing on John Cobby's tale. We learn how the two met, fell in love, married and, after travelling Europe together, agreed to separate, it seems, temporarily. John Cobby was driving to his sister's (to meet his wife) when he heard the news report that changed his life. He was questioned by police as a prime suspect, even confessed, under intense interrogation, to something he never did - but the murderers were caught not long after. His life spiralled into a nightmare of drugs and anguish, the effects of the murder forever with him.

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