

Angelica



Arthur Phillips
(Scribe)

Nothing is as it appears in this exquisitely crafted novel, sliced into four characters'

viewpoints, each casting doubt on the last. In Victorian London, a young mother, Constance Barton, has married above her station, but her dream life with her "saviour"—Joseph, a simmering brute, she claims—has given way to a nightmare, as she loses baby after baby and, as a result, possibly her mind. Convinced that evil haunts her home and stalks her one surviving child, Angelica, 4, Constance summons a canny spiritualist to evict the horror.

Phillips evokes the plush parlours and churning streets of Victorian England in precise and bewitching prose. Equally impressive, his rendering of the grey city's living ghosts: wounded protagonists whose buried histories might be the most frightening thing of all. Tipping its hat to such classics as *The Turn of the Screw*, *Angelica* is a ghostly chiller, yes, but it also triumphs as an analysis of memory and as a portrait of a dysfunctional marriage. ★★★★★ —K.M.

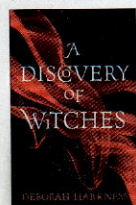
BOOKS
with Karina Machado

New Yorker Phillips is the author of 2004's *The Egyptologist*.

A Discovery of Witches

Deborah Harkness

(Headline)



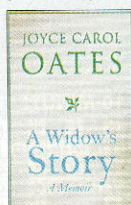
Don't let this novel's doorstop-sized heft scare you. When historian (and witch) Diana Bishop unearths an enchanted manuscript, she

is pursued by demons, vampires and fellow witches intent on learning the book's long-lost secrets. An irresistible tale of wizardry, science and forbidden love, *Discovery* will leave you longing for a sequel. ★★★★★

A Widow's Story

Joyce Carol Oates

(4th Estate)



In a narrative as searing as her fiction, Oates describes the aftermath of her husband's unexpected death. Scattershot moments stand

out—like her fury at the tulips pushing "too soon" through the snow. This is the painful, scorchingly angry journey of a woman struggling to live in a house "from which meaning has departed, like air leaking from a balloon." ★★★★★

The Weird Sisters

Eleanor Brown

(HarperCollins)



Three sisters raised in a book-loving household by a father obsessed with Shakespeare must come to terms with their mother's

cancer and their own mistakes. A sensitive portrait of very real people, detailing the sisters' failings as well as their virtues, this is an absorbing sketch of three lives whose intersection creates havoc and bitterness, yet is full of love. ★★★★★



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

MIRANDA KERR

"Life can get very busy. The way that I balance my work/ life is to really make sure I'm enjoying what I do so I don't necessarily feel like I am 'working,' but rather just living," model, mum (to 2-month-old Flynn) and Kora Organics founder Kerr, 27, says in *Women's Words of Wisdom, Power & Passion*, a collection of interviews with "50 influential achievers" by Karen Phillips (KP Media, \$34.95). In her Q&A, Kerr

reveals she has faced her share of difficult times: "Time is really precious. I learnt this lesson firsthand at a young age when I lost my first boyfriend in a car accident." Kerr, who is married to actor Orlando Bloom, 34, also airs the top three entries on her bucket list: "I would love to climb Machu Picchu in Peru [and] to go to India and embrace the whole cultural and spiritual experience. Also, I'd love to sing and dance on Broadway." ■

Book reviews by Lisa Kay Greissinger, Hannah James, Karina Machado and Tina Jordan

A Great Figure

\$1.45

losing weight was cheaper than gaining it



From this...

"I'M HALF THE PERSON I USED TO BE"

...this

By replacing my breakfast and lunch with a quick, easy and delicious **Optislim** shake I lost 50kg and have kept it off. I love the new me!

For your nearest stockist or to order online go to optislim.com.au



Optislim®

1800 882 408

CHEMIST WAREHOUSE
DISCOUNT CHEMIST

myCHEMIST

DISCOUNT DRUG STORE

Blooms THE CHEMIST

MAX VALUE

MegaSave CHEMIST

and selected leading Pharmacies