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books&dvd

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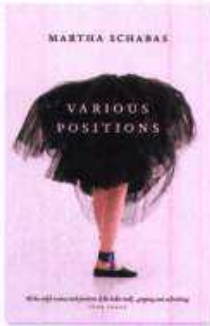
in books



The Mothers' Group

Fiona Higgins, Allen & Unwin, \$29.99

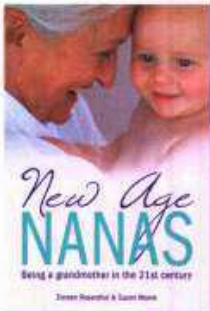
Genie joins the local mothers' group with a distinct lack of enthusiasm. She's a lawyer, missing the cut and thrust of her job, even though she adores her new daughter, Rose. Many professional women who have interrupted rewarding careers to have children will be able to relate to Genie, and the other five women portrayed. This heartfelt debut novel explores how challenging and bewildering motherhood can be – from postnatal depression and incontinence to loss of sexual desire – and how much empathy, reassurance and wisdom can be found in the shared experience of a support group.



Various Positions

Martha Schabas, Text Publishing, \$29.95

Following the success of *Black Swan*, suddenly the world of ballet has become cool, if a little sinister. Of course we all know those tutu-wearers are seething with complex, dark emotions, incubated in the hothouse atmosphere of hormones and competition that defines ballet schools. Rivalry, intense friendships, misdirected crushes, early sexual fumbblings, eating disorders and complex family relationships ramp up the tension in this first novel. The potential for melodrama is well paced in this observed study of the dedication, sacrifice and damage that dance can do to a young psyche.



New Age Nanas

Doreen Rosenthal and Susan Moore, Big Sky Publishing, \$29.99

After surveying more than 1000 Aussie grandmothers, the authors combined their findings with personal experience to provide useful insights and tools for today's grandmothers, who are younger, more active and refuse to conform to old stereotypes of harmless frailty. Each chapter examines a different aspect of this important role and gives useful summaries on topics such as negotiating conflict, managing feelings, the thorny question of discipline, how to include grandfathers more, and many other joys and pitfalls.

on dvd



The Iron Lady Icon, \$39.95

Meryl Streep richly deserved the Best Actress Oscar for her performance as the UK's former Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

The film follows the dementia-suffering pensioner as she looks back over the dramatic events of her life. A must-see.



New Year's Eve Warner Home Video, \$39.95

With a stellar cast including Hilary Swank, Sarah Jessica Parker, Halle Berry, Robert De Niro, and so

many more, this is a series of stories taking place on, you guessed it, NYE. If you loved *Valentine's Day*, give it a go.



Happy Feet Two Warner Home Video, \$39.95

The spectacular landscape of Antarctica is again the setting for this all-singing, all-dancing animated

adventure. Although lacking some of the spark and originality of the first film, there's still plenty of fun to be had!

on cd



Cold Chisel – No Plans Warner Music, \$24.95

Cold Chisel's first studio album in

14 years features 11 previously unheard tracks, including the final recorded performances by drummer Steve Prestwich, who died last year. Also look out for the band's 'one night only' live performances in April.



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