



short takes

AMY, 27
HOWARD SOUNES
HODDER AND STOUGHTON,
RRP \$30



Despite its tacky cover and lurid subject matter, this is, for the most part, a sensitive look at the 27 Club, the

music stars who died at that age. It focuses on Amy Winehouse, but takes in Kurt Cobain, Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Brian Jones and others. Sounes draws together the common threads — early success, depression, drugs and drink. If your child is a pop star, lock them in a room for a year when they turn 27.

BB

Verdict: saddening

FOOTY GLORY DAYS
ELLIOT CARTLEDGE
HARDIE GRANT, RRP \$29.95



Footy's greatest era, says the author, was 1968-82, with names such as Jesaulenko, Barassi, Hafey, Knights, Van der Haar,

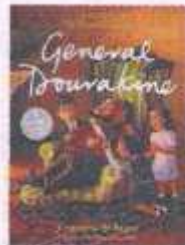
Sheedy, Aylett, *World of Sport* and *League Teams* ... and many more VFL stars whose on and off-field exploits ultimately helped change the face of the then part-time sport into the corporate behemoth it is now. It all happened on Saturday afternoon across six dilapidated suburban Melbourne grounds.

DJ

Verdict: kick down memory lane

GENERAL DOURAKINE

COUNTESS DE SEGUR
SIMON & SCHUSTER, RRP \$18



This sequel to *A Room at Guardian Angel Inn* follows lovable grump General Dourakine, his faithful companion

Dérigny, and Dérigny's wife and sons as they leave their beloved France for the general's Russian estates. Their new life seems idyllic, but when the general's scheming niece and her naughty offspring arrive, deceit and betrayal abound. The product of a 19th-century Franco-Russian noblewoman's imagination, the tone of relentless bonhomie won't suit everyone. **HH**

Verdict: mischievous

I MARRIED A DUKE

BY KATHARINE ASHE
AVON, RRP \$13



It takes a few pages of prologue to hook readers on Katharine Ashe's new series, *The Prince Catchers*. By the first chapter, you'll

be dying to know who the parents of the three orphaned girls are, and to unravel the mystery of their past. Unfortunately, you'll not have those questions answered in this book. What you do get in this opening tale is two strong characters, Arabella and Luc, whose love is, while at times frustrating, mostly engaging and entertaining. **LPM**

Verdict: good, not great