



**What are you reading?**

China To Me, an autobiography by Emily Hahn. Hahn was a writer on the New Yorker right up to her death at 92 in 1997. She ran off to Shanghai in the 1930s, fell in love with an opium-addicted poet and went everywhere with her pet gibbon, Mr Mills, on her shoulder. She wrote 50 books and is one of literature's great eccentrics.

**Who are your favourite authors or influences?**

Jean Rhys, Olivia Manning, Martha Gellhorn — women who have been underrated in literary history but wrote with courage and passion.

**What is your book about?**

The Woman In The Lobby is the provocative story of Violet Armengard, a rather naive middle-class girl from Melbourne with an unhappy marriage, who is abandoned by a lover in Paris and survives by becoming a “travelling companion” to wealthy men. The novel is set in hotel lobbies around the world and follows Violet as she pushes aside her moral qualms and becomes addicted to the life of luxury. When she meets Florin, a gigolo with an unknowable past, she is lured further into a world where human feeling is a negotiable commodity and sex is as much about power as it is pleasure.

**The Woman In The Lobby** by Lee Tulloch (Viking, \$32.95)

