Loughnan Vale & Correa

ORIGINAL EDITIONS

Six first pages

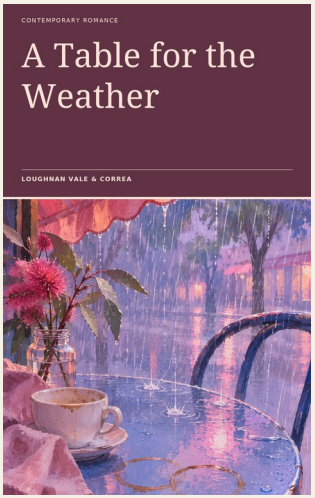
Meet six stories, one opening page at a time.








The reading list



EBOOK

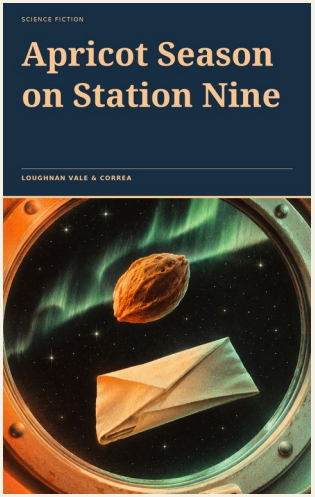
A Table for the Weather

Contemporary romance

THE OPENING PAGE

The diagram on the door

The first thing June drew for Pia was a picture of a drain. Water had begun leaking through the ceiling of the downstairs cafe, exactly above the till. Pia stood on a chair with her finger in the crack while June drew the actual route of the upstairs pipes on the back of a flour invoice. Rain had annulled the electricity. Somebody lit a birthday candle so she could see what she was drawing.



EBOOK

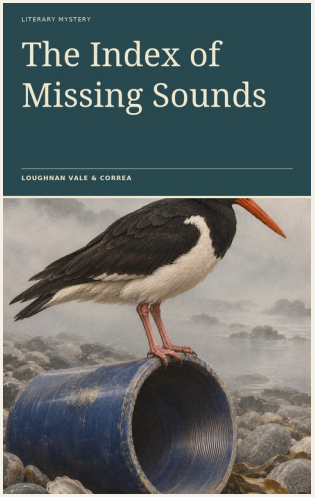
Apricot Season on Station Nine

Epistolary science fiction

THE OPENING PAGE

Mail for a person not yet born

Dear Keeper, you will have received my apricot stone when I was still in nappies. The lightsail courier left with nursery parcels before I was old enough to hold a pencil. Letters come by the cheap relay, seventeen years behind its wake. I have caught up with the idea that a person could hold something of mine and have no idea I exist. Have you still got it? Either answer will be acceptable. Sincerely, Kit.



EBOOK

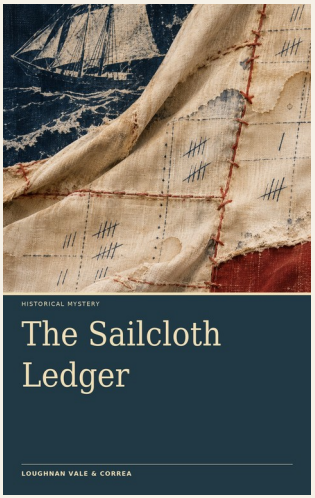
The Index of Missing Sounds

Literary mystery

THE OPENING PAGE

The Room Above the Tide

The newspaper sent a photographer to the museum on Thursday, which was unfortunate because Thursday was the day the ceiling came down. He caught Ada Keir in an apron, with a lump of wet plaster in each hand. Behind her an oystercatcher stood on the windowsill trying to decide whether the room was now part of the beach. The photograph ran under the headline HARBOUR MEMORIES MOVE INLAND. Ada cut out the bird and pinned it to her desk.



PAPERBACK

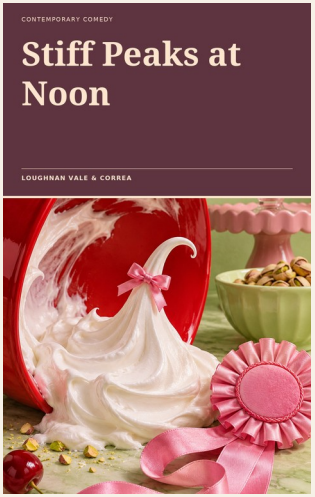
The Sailcloth Ledger

Historical mystery

THE OPENING PAGE

A Minute for Sale

When the clockmaker's widow came to buy nine minutes, I offered to take something off for quantity. This was a joke we made in the shop. Mrs Pell took nine copper pennies out of her glove and set them on my bench. Each penny had a little hole through the king's nose. 'I have paid your father every Thursday for two years,' she said. 'What has my bereavement got to do with the price?'



PAPERBACK

Stiff Peaks at Noon

Contemporary comedy

THE OPENING PAGE

A Reasonable Amount of Butter

When Jules Pick drove the van through the arch at the Civic Pastry Cup, something on the roof struck the papier-mâché almond and removed its left eyebrow. The almond did not look much worse without it. It had always looked suspiciously pleased with itself. Her cousin Fabian leaned out of the van to inspect the damage. “Get a photograph,” he said. “It may be the last point we score today.”



PAPERBACK

Deckle Edge

Contemporary romance

THE OPENING PAGE

One sheet

Alba found the visiting artist asleep against the mill door, wearing a coat of mosquito bites and holding a white jug full of water. The sun had just come across the little river, the light moving up him from his boots to his nose. In an hour the summer visitors would be here. They would want paper with flowers in it, paper made on the day of an anniversary, paper just large enough to wrap around a diamond ring.

The reading list

Select a title to return to its opening page.

A Table for the Weather 02

Contemporary romance / Ebook

Apricot Season on Station Nine 03

Epistolary science fiction / Ebook

The Index of Missing Sounds 04

Literary mystery / Ebook

The Sailcloth Ledger 05

Historical mystery / Paperback

Stiff Peaks at Noon 06

Contemporary comedy / Paperback

Deckle Edge 07

Contemporary romance / Paperback