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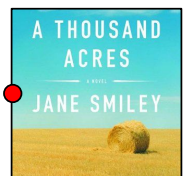
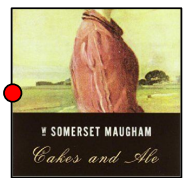
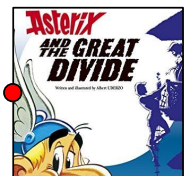
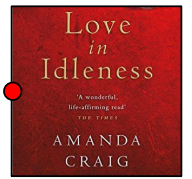
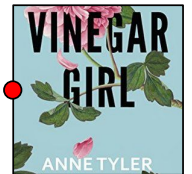
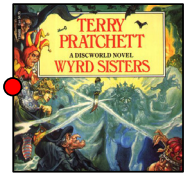
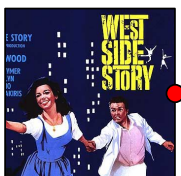
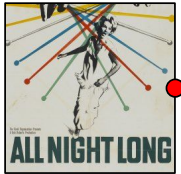
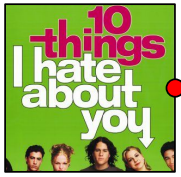
By Luke Zappia and Sarah Blood

The sun is shining. There's not a cloud in the sky. What a time to be alive! This is your big day. After four years of mind-numbing, painstaking research, you and your interdisciplinary team in the School of Wicked Applied Science-ing at Melbourne University are ready to reveal *The Device* to the academic community. As the leader of the project, you have been given the honour of activating *The Device* for the very first time.

"Ladies and gentlemen," you tell the crowd gathered in Arts Hall, "today, we take a great leap forward in really cool future science-fiction-type devices." *The Device*, which sits on a podium beside you, hums gently. It's small and square and shiny and covered in some pretty cool blinking lights. The sunlight streams through the window and reflects pleasantly off its chrome finish. The crowd looks impressed. "The possible applications of this technology are numerous," you continue. "The Device can supercollide, it can superconduct, it is capable of hot and cold fusion, fission, friction and fan fiction. It can reverse and re-reverse polarity, it can violate at least two of the known laws of thermodynamics and has since discovered three more." The crowd murmurs in approval. This is going terrifically. In fact, the only one in the room who doesn't look utterly impressed by your speech is the brick, which, at that very moment, comes crashing through the window on a direct collision course with *The Device*!

"No!" you shout as brick meets chrome and *The Device* is sent flying off its platform, screeching at a concerningly high pitch. Without a second thought you dive across the room, determined to save four years of hard work from shattering on the floor of Arts Hall. You take a classic catch and roll elegantly to the floor with *The Device* cradled gently into your hands. The crowd doesn't know whether to be concerned or impressed. *The Device* is still screeching. Now it starts to shake. Its lights flash and you suddenly feel as if your entire body is being pulled inside out through your nostrils. Everything goes dark and a series of words and images flash before your eyes. You open your mouth to shout.

"Whhhhhhhaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—



BUT TO BE
 PADDLING PALMS
 AND PINCHING FINGERS
 AS NOW
 THEY ARE
 AND
 MAKING
 PRACTISED SMILES AS
 IN A
 LOOKING-GLASS