

## Book talk

### *The Barrier* by Skankari Chandran

MacMillan \$29.99

In 2040, it has been 15 years since the end of World War Righteous, which resulted in a catastrophic Ebola outbreak. Vaccinations are now mandatory, and 'herd immunity' is enforced by the Department of Biological Integrity. When several engineered Ebola outbreaks are detected, Agent Noah Williams is sent to Sri Lanka to investigate a brilliant virologist who may be behind it. He finds, however, that Ebola may not be the only eradicated disease in resurgence, as it quickly becomes clear that the culprits could be suffering from the Sixth Virus, religion.

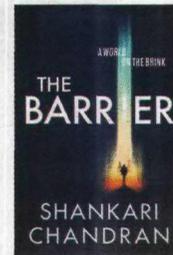
*The Barrier* is an intriguing book from former Canberran Skankari Chandran, and combines espionage, philosophical reflection and thrills in a post-apocalyptic setting.

An in-depth examination of science and faith form a major part of this novel.

There is a significant focus on virology, and Chandran does an impressive job of clearly explaining the science, while examining its benefits and potential sinister exploitations. The analysis of religion is also fascinating with Chandran exploring the theory that religious faith is at the root of all modern problems.

Setting her novel in a near-future following several devastating events gives Chandran the opportunity to create a new world. The result is an uncertain international situation, filled with interesting new alliances, paranoia and corruption, and is the perfect setting for a thriller.

This is an excellent novel that will appeal to fans of many different genres.



- Michael Popple