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into horror. Styles takes familiar tropes and energises them with a sense of escalating dread. The book's billed as an outback *Thelma & Louise*, though it's closer in tone to the Cormac McCarthy referenced in the title.

NON-FICTION PICK OF THE WEEK

Magnificent Rebels

Andrea Wulf, John Murray, \$34.99

In the English-speaking world, we tend to think of the Romantic era in literature as being ushered in by the poets Wordsworth, Coleridge and Keats. But the very first European Romantics were actually a remarkable group of German philosophers, writers and polymaths drawn into the orbit of the passionate intellectual Caroline Bohmer, who staged their revolution of the mind and heart in the small town of Jena in the 1790s. With the flair of a novelist, Andrea Wulf uses the high drama and adventurous spirits of her protagonists – including Goethe, Schiller, Novalis, Fichte, Schelling and Alexander von Humboldt – to shed light on the philosophy that ignited this circle of radical thinkers. The result is a thrilling historical narrative that captures how their new, liberating concept of the self was inseparable from the “great interconnected living organism that is nature”.

