## C©PYRIGHTAGENCY READING AUSTRALIA

## Extract from 'In Trust' page 435:

There is to begin with the paraphernalia of daily living: all those objects, knives,
(1), coins,(2), razors, that are too familiar, too worn
and stained with use, a doorknob, a baby's rattle, or too swiftly in passage from hand to
mouth or hand to hand to arouse more than casual interest. They are disposable, and are
mostly disposed of without thought. Tram tickets,(3), wooden serviette
rings with a poker design of poinsettias,(4), beermats, longlife torch
batteries, the lids of Doulton soup tureens, are carted off at last to a tip and become rubble,
the sub-stratum of cities, or are pulped and go to earth; unless by some quirk of
circumstance, one or two examples are stranded so far up the beach in a distant decade that
they become collectors' items and then so rare and evocative to be the only survivors of their
age.
Later again, it is not only objects that survive and can be collected. Images too, the
shadowy projection of objects, live on to haunt us with the immediacy of what was: figures
alone or in groups, seated with a pug dog on their knees or stiffly upright in boating costume
beside an oar; a pyramid of young men in flannel slacks and singlets holding the difficult pose
forever, blood swelling their necks as they strain upwards, set on physical perfection
(5); Bearded, monocled, or in hoop
skirts under parasols, and with all their flesh about them, they stare boldly out of a century of
Smiles