

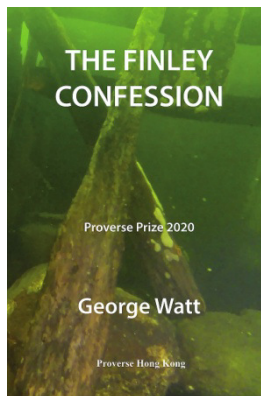


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**FOR FAVOUR OF NOTICE / REVIEW**



**TITLE: The Finley Confession**

**By:** George Watt

**Publisher:** Proverse Hong Kong

**Prizes:** Proverse Prize Winner 2020 (NB one of two winners; two separate works).

**Introduction by:** George Watt

**Language:** English

**Genre:** Fiction. Novel. Set in Australia, 1960s (main story) / 2010 (frame)

**Edition:** 1st.

**ISBNs:** See table below

**Format:** pbk and Ebook. See table below

**Illustrations:** NIL

**Size (pbk):** 139.7mm w. x 215.9mm h. (5.5in x 8.5in x 0.63in spine) (13.97cm x 21.59cm x 1.6 cm)

**Price (pbk):** Hong Kong: HK\$158 (bookshop price); UK: GBP16; USA: US\$22; Eurozone: EUR22;

**Launching:** 18 November 2021 (Scheduled)

**Published:** 18 November 2021 (Scheduled)

**Weight (pbk):** 11.5oz

**BIC:** FA (Modern fiction)

**KEY WORDS:** Australian Fiction, Landowners, Half-Aboriginal character (1 of 3 young men), Snowy River project, “Mateship”, bildungsroman, mystery tale, historical novel

ISBN-13: 978-988-8492-30-5 / 9789888492305	George Watt	The Finley Confession	US\$ 22.00	15 October 2021	POD Pbk 280pp
ISBN-10 : 9888492306					
ISBN-13: 978-988-8492-31-2; 9789888492312	George Watt	The Finley Confession	US\$ 9.99	30 September 2021	Ebook 0.62 mb; 6992kb.
ASIN: B09H45Q3D5					

**THE AUTHOR**

**George Watt** lives in Australia. He is an academic and author. His published works include critical studies such as *The Fallen Woman in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century English Novel* recently rereleased by Routledge, and the first full-length study of an influential postcolonial writer in *Interlogue Studies in Singapore Literature Volume 5: Robert Yeo*. His poetry has appeared in four volumes of *Mingled Voices*, and his collection, *Sandpaper Swimming: going after Burke and Wills*, was published by Flying Island Books in 2019. He has held academic posts in Australia, USA, Japan and Macau, including at the Australian National University, several years as Professor Dean in the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Asian Studies at *Nagoya Shoka Daigaku*, and finally as Founding Master in the recent collegiate restructuring of the University of Macau. *The Finley Confession* is his first novel.

**THE NOVEL**

In 2010 two septuagenarians reminisce on a balcony overlooking a former town and river valley inundated fifty years before by the damned waters of the massive Snowy Mountain Scheme. One of them, Ralph McDonald, feels compelled to retell dramatic events from his youth, ones related to things hidden in the depths of his conscience and in the waters themselves. An unlikely trio of late teenagers—the scion of Australian landed gentry, the brilliant son of middle-class Canberra academics, and the humble son of the local garage owner—together spend uncomplicated school holidays until the catalytic arrival of two individuals: an intense half Aboriginal boy who



inhabits his deceased grandmother's shack, and a singer from a distant world of glamour appearing for the winter season at the only major ski lodge in the surrounding national park. As the confession reveals, little by little, the trio—seemingly the embodiment of the Australian egalitarian myth of mateship—is poisoned by snobbery, vindictiveness, complex sexualities, deception and, above all, interpersonal exploitation. Working through an amalgam of literary genres (bildungsroman, mystery tale, and the historic novel), *The Finley Confession* is a critical account of race, class and gender in contemporary Australia, but it also brings into question who owns any story and why.

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### SOME COMMENTS

“Highly readable and thoroughly entertaining... a writerly novel, calling into question the very authority of any teller of tales.”

—Dr Sandra Lindemann, Accredited Editor, Australian and New Zealand Institute of Professional Editors.

“The novel perfectly captures the Snowy Mountains of the 1960s... a coming-of-age story of great power and intensity as the narrator finds himself torn between two classes, two races... and two loves. At times matter-of-fact and conversational, at other times, laced with lyrical beauty and wry observation.”

—A.J. Mackinnon, author of *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow* and *The Well at the World's End*.

“With poetic aplomb and a fondness for frank and unsettling insights, *The Finley Confession* plumbs a lost Australian landscape to sound the depths of fractured masculinity.”

—Sean Williams, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author.

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**Canada stock-holding retailer:** Elizabeth Campbell Books, Main Street South, Kenora, Ontario, Canada.  
**UK agent:** Mr Stephen Inman, Worcester. (Please order from amazon kdp.)  
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