



## **The Explorers: Stories of Discovery and Adventure from the Australian Frontier**

*Tim Flannery (Editor)*

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A lively collection of extraordinary stories of adventure and discovery, The Explorers tells the epic saga of the conquest and settlement of Australia. Editor Tim Flannery selects sixty-seven accounts that convey the sense of wonder and discovery, along with the human dimensions of struggle and deprivation, which occurred in the exploration of the last continent to be fully mapped by Europeans. Beginning with the story of Dutch captain Willem Janz's 1606 expedition at Cape York -- the bloody outcome of which would sadly foreshadow future relations between colonists and Aboriginal peoples -- and running through Robyn Davidson's 1977 camelback ride through the desolate Outback deserts, The Explorers bristles with the enterprise that Flannery explains as "heroic, for nowhere else did explorers face such an obdurate country."

## **The Explorers: Stories of Discovery and Adventure from the Australian Frontier Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Explorers: Stories of Discovery and Adventure from the Australian Frontier for online ebook**

### **Karen says**

I did not finish this but wish I had. I liked the idea of examining the history of Australian exploration from diverse viewpoints, and in fact through the explorers' own writings. I admire the explorers who made daily entries in their journals despite arduous travel in what were often torturous conditions. I was moved by the haunting nature of some entries--really the sense of encountering mysterious lands and people. Also memorable were the descriptions of wild, natural Australia. Not all of it was torturous; some landscapes were described as being quite beautiful (as indeed they are).

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### **Amanda Nunn says**

I only had one problem with this collection of Australian exploration fragments...each snippet of diary or memoir left me wanting more.

This is a well-chosen collection of accounts from diverse viewpoints. I especially liked the rare Aboriginal account, seeing how different in tone they were from the typical European story-telling template.

I always knew the Australian outback was an unforgiving environment, but these accounts brought this home in a more personal way. Likewise, I knew that Aborigines had been treated badly, but was viscerally shocked at one of the few accounts from a woman and her casual description of the abduction of an Aboriginal woman - presumably for a servant. *You can't just steal people!*

The final account was well chosen - the end of an era for several reasons. The book has left me with much to think on and much to explore.

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### **Atacama9006 says**

Very nice book about the most important explorers of Australia. Chronological order of exploration. Great introduction to Aborigens and history of Australia.

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### **Caro says**

The white explorers who tried to conquer inland Australia were mostly awful and died a lot, the end. The stories are infuriatingly repetitive and are often pretty grim, although you have to (albeit rather dubiously) admire the relentless stupidity of those involved. I guess.

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## **Katrina says**

This has been on my radar

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## **Becky says**

Tim Flannery is an excellent writer, but this book is simply a collection of passages (with his editorial comments) from ships' logs and personal journals. Many of these tell of encounters - some good, many hostile - between the aborigines and the European explorers. My criticism is that Flannery has tried to do too much, using brief excerpts that tell woefully incomplete stories. It would have been more effective to choose a few early explorers and tell a more thorough story, and thus give the reader a real taste of early Australian exploration.

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## **Kylie says**

This is a collection of fascinating accounts written by early European explorers, beginning with the Dutch in 1604 and going through to 1977. It details their early encounters with the Aborigines, when the English gave them presents of tomahawks and handkerchiefs and the Aborigines willingly became their guides and helped them find water on their explorations inland.

There are chilling stories of men becoming weakened in the desert (and sometimes dying) while searching for days on end to find water. Above all, it shows the courage of the early explorers when boldly going into the unknown. It also shows a much darker side of our history, when the relations between the Europeans and Aborigines broke down and they became enemies.

This was a very thought-provoking book, and enabled me to better understand Australia's history and the events that brought us to where we are today. Humorous in some parts, scary in others, it overall left me with a sense of admiration and respect for both the original and new inhabitants of this country.

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## **Anna Keating says**

Unfortunately lost my copy of the book. Am listing it as read, unlikely to recover it! Was going good up until that moment though, was enjoying the excerpts.

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## **Andrew Ma says**

Great survey of accounts from early Australian explorers. From the exhilaration of first encounters with the unknown, glimpses of shared humanity between Europeans and Indigenous people, but also the great cruelty of the colonialist project. Each account contextualised and sensitively introduced by T Flannery.

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### **Brian says**

Hard to rate this book as a work of the author because of course Tim Flannery only compiled a raft of extracts from the diaries of various early explores.

While the individual extracts are interesting enough in their own right, when compiled, a sameness comes over them as to render continued reading more of a chore than an enjoyment.

Not my favourite i'm afraid.

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### **Richie says**

Very informative, if dry at times. Book is compiled of actual accounts of exploration spanning over three centuries. All accounts told from the perspectives of explorers.

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### **Karen Smith says**

This was an excellent book to read to get a view of what the early explorers encountered as they set out to explore Australia. It was a bit labourious at times, as many of them had similar experiences, nevertheless, it was worth the read.

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### **Lucas Russell says**

An interesting collection of excerpts from European explorer of Australia. It is a great introduction to some important players in the history of Australia. Now that libraries and museums around the world are scanning source documents, this is a useful list of references for anyone wanting to learn more about history to start their exploration.

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