



## **Homecountry (Peter Clancy #1)**

*T.W. Lawless*

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It is 1987 and Peter Clancy, a hard-drinking, hard-living Melbourne Truth journalist returns to his hometown to settle his mother's estate. Peter's two-day visit to Clarke's Flat stretches to eight as he is unwillingly drawn into the sinister secrets of this outback town.

Amazon Highest Rankings:

- 1) Number seven - Books ( Australian and Oceanian genre)
- 2) Number eight - Kindle ( Australian and Oceanian genre)
- 3) Number twelve - Kindle ( Hard-boiled mysteries genre. Has entered top twenty three times.

Achieved Amazon Best Seller status May 23rd.

## **Homecountry (Peter Clancy #1) Details**

Date : Published August 12th 2012 by Campanile

ISBN : 9780646584690

Author : T.W. Lawless

Format : Paperback 210 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Mystery Thriller

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## **From Reader Review Homecountry (Peter Clancy #1) for online ebook**

### **She Enigma says**

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. From the first chapter TW Lawless totally engages his audience, I had formed an opinion of Peter Clancy within the first few pages of reading this fantastic book, deciding I did not like Peter Clancy! He was a totally disrespecting, rude obnoxious drunk with a huge chip on his shoulder. A total loser in the making; until he returned to his home town where he had to face some home truths about himself and the town he once called "home".

Peter has some tough decisions to make, does he turn a blind eye on the past ? or does he engage his journalistic skills to solve a mystery which has engulfed the town since the time of his fathers sudden death, a death that occurred when Peter was just a young boy. Peter had escaped Clarkes Flat as soon as he left school, cutting all ties with the town and sadly his family. I can feel his mothers loss, she never changed a thing in his bedroom hoping for the day he returned to his home at Clarkes Flat. A shame his return to the town was to bury his Mother.

Little had changed in Clarkes Flat since Peter left all those years ago; the crooked cops still "served and protected" the community and dished out their own form of "small town justice". Peter meets up with his childhood friend Dave to solve a mystery that had been haunting Dave and his Mother since the "suicide" of Dave's dad and the rumors of his involvement in cattle duffing. Only it wasn't his Dad doing the cattle duffing, it was the local police Sargent and his team, which resulted in a need for Peter to break into the local police station to gain evidence.

What Peters discovers on his return to Clarkes Flat will keep you in suspense till the last page. I hope TW lawless writes a sequel to this story!

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### **Anthea says**

A page turner and great intro into characters at the start of the book.

Investigations into the past don't truly start until halfway through the book but it's entertaining from first page to last. Look forward to the next Peter Clancy story! Really good first book TW Lawless!

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### **Karen says**

The first of the Peter Clancy books from T.W. Lawless, HOMECOUNTRY takes Clancy to exactly that - home to the town where he grew up, in outback Queensland to bury his mother. With his credo of never looking back this is the first time he's returned to Clarke's Flat since he left, so for the first time he's forced to confront many of the reasons why he left in the first place. And it's not a comfortable outlook.

There's much that's happened in his home town to him, to his family and to friends and people who are still in town. There's questions around his own father's death, about this mother's actions after selling the farm and moving to town, and in particular, in what happened when he was a teenager, to his then girlfriend. None of this paints anybody much in a particularly good light. Especially Clancy who, perhaps because of that never looking back thing, has left some chaos in his wake and seems particularly put out that he's going to

have to sort some stuff out. Now.

Having read the second book in the series first, Clancy does become a more engaging character than he might be for anyone coming to *HOMECOUNTRY* first up. Here he could come across as too blasé about something that caused so much damage. Although he does eventually twig and try to make reparations. He also does approach a lot of things with a hefty dose of cynicism (as you'd fully expect from anybody who could work for The Truth). And the man has exactly the taste in music you'd expect from somebody born in his era - Hendix, Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple fan and all.

Dryly humorous throughout, with occasional bursts of flat out funny, Clancy is not all bad, and his mother wasn't completely wrong to do what she did, and the past is sometimes a tricky place to navigate. As a debut novel, *HOMECOUNTRY* is well written, with strong storytelling, particularly when you consider that the central character is just a bit ambiguous. If I'd read this as a debut there's certainly enough to make me look for the rest of the series. (The second book is *THORNYDEVILS*, the third *BLURLINES*).

Worth a look and not just for those of us who grew up in the bush, remember those bands, remember The Truth, and have a feel for what it's like to be from small town 1980's and be desperate to be anywhere else.

<http://www.austcrimefiction.org/review/>

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### **H.M.C. H.M.C. says**

A Great Aussie Read!

I love reading books set in Australia, and *Homecountry* was a great Aussie read. TW Lawless has developed some excellent characters here, and my only wish is that there were more pages to delve into. The protagonist, Peter Clancy, although sometimes difficult to like, is gritty and raw. Despite wanting to slap him, you also wish that he could sort himself out, and you find yourself motivated to see what happens to him. There are other parts and characters in the story that could have used fleshing out, but I was able to sink my teeth in far enough to be hooked.

TW Lawless is a writer to watch. I particularly enjoyed reading his prose and witty dialogue, and had a chuckle out loud here and there. Which, of course, is all important in a good murder mystery. His next book, *Thorny Devils*, is on my 'to read' list.

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### **Kkirmos says**

I'm not a big thriller fan but I loved it. The characters are engaging, if sometimes duplicitous. They are real and flawed, and Lawless makes no apology about them. His style is direct, often graphic, frequently laced with a touch of humour. The book can be confronting at times. He's clearly no fan of mindless authoritarianism, and he explodes the idyll of life in a country town. The story is relevant and it works!

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## **nora m malotte says**

### **Home country (Book 1)**

You can't escape your childhood. You are not the only one with memories of it. The problem is no one remembers it quite the same. And what you remember as a bad night is somebody's total nightmare! And it's all come to haunt you or so Peter Clancy is finding out. A fast paced THRILLER with a great story line. Believable it could be your home town. I RECOMMEND.

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## **Miranda says**

Whenever I read the description I instantly thought of the movie "Four Brothers". I have no idea why but that's what I had in mind. Whenever I received my free copy, I instantly noticed the different texture of the cover. I could feel and understand Young Peter's dislike of his small town. And the whole time I thought of old classic westerns. I had to remind myself it was in Australia - I've never read a book based in Australia.

I was thoroughly shocked and disgusted at the part with Gibbo and Chong and that poor kangaroo and her itty bitty baby! I still am! I must say, the violence towards animals was almost too much for me. It's a really big deal breaker but at the second instance I was so engrossed in the book that I pushed on.

I had such a soft spot for Doug from the very beginning. I think we all feel the same way he did throughout - wanting to be loved and constantly searching for approval, never feeling good enough and being terrified of letting people down. He was my favorite in the book and Dave was a close second.

I wasn't very happy about the ending, but I can understand why the author chose to end it that way. I did really enjoy the book whenever Peter teamed up with Dave. It was a very interesting and action packed.

I did get confused a few times due to grammar errors but I understand; fresh new authors have to make tough sacrifices in the beginning.

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## **Ema says**

*Peter couldn't remember why he had been in a fight. Maybe he'd been an innocent non-combatant. It would also explain the blood on his shirt when he had woken up on the couch this morning, face down in a pizza. Despite having over a decade's experience of excessive drinking, he still hadn't cured the after-effects, which was why he always planned his hangovers for the weekends. During the week he stuck religiously to his nightly limit of twelve cans of VB.*

**Homecountry** is a fast paced, fairly captivating mystery-crime novel, with colorful language and short chapters that are easy to grasp. Overall, it was a satisfying read, because **I didn't get bored** (sometimes, keeping the book short is the best way to do it), I found some bits of **good humor**, I got a **glimpse of Australia** and I experienced some really **gritting moments**.

Yet, the ending felt rushed, there was no direct confrontation between the hero and the bad guy (the latter had too easy an ending) and there was a bit too much violence for my taste. The hero also starts to weep several times towards the end, which was odd, seeing that he didn't seem to give a damn until then (what a

sook!).

Peter Clancy's character is not easy to like: he is a hard drinking journalist, writes scandal articles for a tabloid, treats his girlfriend like a disposable object. After his mother dies (he hasn't seen her for 10 years), he goes back to Clarkes Flat, which he was so eager to leave behind. He finds a town still hostile towards Aboriginals, where Max, the chief policeman, maintains order by applying the bush law and using Peter's cousin as a spy. *Most human beings are like cattle. They have to be led. They have to be directed.*

Peter is regarded as an outsider, despite the fact that his family helped develop this part of Australia. Soon, things from his past come to haunt him - his father's death, the rocky relationship with his mother, the girlfriend that was raped because of his cowardice, the lousy friends that got him into trouble. Moreover, he finds out that two distant deaths, that were labeled as suicides at the time, could be in fact murders. Peter has to decide whether to flee back to his chaotic life in Melbourne or stay in Clarkes Flat to investigate and fight for the truth.

I've learned some new words in the process, like **VB** (Victoria Bitter, one of the highest selling beers in Australia), **Vegemite** (I want to taste that, I'm so curious! Or Marmite...), **derro** (hobo, bum), **ghost gum** (evergreen tree species), **porkpie hat** (huh? it seems to resemble a pork pie dish and it was made famous by Buster Keaton), **sook** (cry baby), **wowser** (killjoy, prude, puritan).

All in all, it was an enjoyable experience and I hope that T.W. Lawless will come out with better and better novels over time.

\*I've won this novel in the First Reads giveaway, yay!\*

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### **Susan says**

Peter Clancy isn't your usual hero and really does seem to be in need of redemption. He writes sex, sleaze and scandal for a tabloid newspaper [making it up if the truth isn't quite salacious enough], needs to get through a six pack of beer just to drive a 2 hour journey and ran off and left his girlfriend to be raped by a couple of thugs. Still, I grew to like him and was rooting for him when he decided to help his mate investigate a probable murder which had been covered up by a small town corrupt policeman. I enjoyed the story even if at times it was a bit clunky and didn't always flow smoothly and would have given it at least 4 stars if it wasn't for the extremely irritating proofreading mistakes. The missing or additional words and abrupt transitions where paragraph breaks should have been used were rather distracting and have led me to deliver a 3 star rating.

I was fortunate to have received this book as a First Reads freebie from goodreads.com

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### **Jennifer Althaus says**

Homecountry by TW Lawless shows the strength of this Australian writers ability to produce a novel that not only captivates but puts you in a place of reality. TW Lawless entertains with humor, drama, love and a little bit of country lunacy.

Born and raised in North Queensland but currently living in Melbourne Victoria TW Lawless has combined his life experiences in both parts of Australia into one book. He has created a work of fiction that makes

Australians feel at home and brings those overseas to Australia. There is truth in his characters as they represent the culture of Australia and the life of the outback.

Primarily set in 1987 Homecountry takes you on a journey into the life of Peter Clancy, a hard-drinking Melbourne Truth journalist. Returning to his hometown of Clarke's Flat to bury his mother and settle the estate Peter Clancy's short two day stay is soon stretched to eight as he is drawn back into the past and the secrets the town beholds.

Peter is convinced by his childhood mate David Tindall, who is now a police constable, to use his journalistic skills and contacts to help him uncover the truth behind the 1960's 'suicide' of David's father and another man. With Aboriginal Sam Saturday supporting David, Peter is soon convinced that things are not as they seemed.

TW Lawless writes with an easy to read flow that draws you in and captivates you, throwing in a little humor from time to time that has you snickering and grinning from ear to ear. My initial thoughts after reading two pages of Homecountry was that this was definitely a man's book, but how wrong I was. Homecountry is a book that suits both sexes and a vast age range. The content is manly do a degree but it soon had a woman like myself wanting to turn the page to find out more.

Homecountry is a thriller that leaves you asking questions and wondering about the plans and motives of those around you. What is going on in your town? Is Clarke's Flat possibly an example of country towns within Australia?

On his site TW Lawless states that Homecountry is an idea he has carried in his head for twenty years. In the early 1990's he sat down and wrote a book in longhand, had it typed and sent it to several publishers. After receiving rejection letters he soon became discouraged saving the publishing of his first book until he became older, wiser and more determined. Readers will be thankful that he eventually found that little place within himself that gave him the courage to take the leap into publishing.

TW Lawless is currently working on his second book Thornydevils which should see a publication date of early 2014 . As he says "Thats what writers do. There's no time to sit on your hands when a great idea is developing in your head. It will take you over anyway."

TW Lawless is a storyteller who leaves you breathless with anticipation. Homecountry has definitely left me wanting more and wondering what is being created in the mind of this Australian author. I await book two with anticipation.

Find out more about TW Lawless and purchase Homecountry at [www.twlawless.com](http://www.twlawless.com)

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### **Cathy Smith says**

I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads. I thought it was an excellent book. The storyline was great and kept you interested. The characters were believeable, but for me, the drinking was in a bit of

excess. How can anyone operate with so much liqueur inside them? And the ending of the story left much to the imagination: what happened to Max and Cory - were they killed or just hurt? And Douglas? What was Sam's end? Did the story get out, and what were the results or investigation of it? I would have liked a more definite ending; but maybe it will continue in another book? Only a few (3) spelling/grammar mistakes that I had to stop at in the reading as well. But overall, it was a great book. I enjoyed reading it very much!

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### **Suzan says**

TABLOID journalist Peter Clancy loves his job--raking muck for the Melbourne Truth has never paid so well in a society obsessed with the human failings of its media darlings. In fact, the long hours make it easy for Peter to avoid calling his regular shag, Michelle, his girlfriend, and for him to admit that drinking half a slab a day isn't the best lifestyle choice. When he gets a call saying his mum has died, Peter knows he has to head home to the family property—a dustbowl of a town outside of Townsville called Clarke's Flat—to settle the family estate and get the hell back to Melbourne as fast as possible. But like all visits to the past, Peter can't help but face the things he ran away from; the people he let down; and the reality of who he is. Home Country is as droll, sarcastic, funny and boozed up as the outback its set in. An enjoyable read that features realistic, classic Australian characters as familiar as your own uncle.

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### **Dale says**

This was a giveaway book I won here on goodreads. Thank you to the publisher for giving me the chance to read this book.

Peter Clancy worked in Melbourne as journalist for a seedy newspaper company. With the many current demons he had, the death of his mother brings him back to his hometown where many more demons await. A horrific adolescent incident that changed many lives is a huge part of this story. The ghost of his abusive father wreak havoc with his mind. There are many skeletons hidden in the closet of Clarkes Flat.

I really enjoyed the writing style of this book. It seemed to jump effortlessly from one time period to another. The story keeps you involved to the very end. My only disappointment was that I was expecting more closure. The ending by no means was left entirely open, but was not wrapped up either. It was a good book and I enjoyed it very much. I recommend it to my friends and others.

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### **Zoeytron says**

Hard-drinking Peter Clancy's credo is simple - never look back. It serves him well for a period of years as he writes for a Melbourne rag ironically called The Truth. Sleaze, sex, and scandal are what sells, and the dissolute Peter has no qualms about embellishing "the facts" as needed to heighten the hype.

Upon his mother's death, Peter must return to his hometown to settle her estate. Having eschewed all things having to do with his past there in Clarke's Flat, he resents having to return even to perform this duty. Skeletons of days gone by rattle their bones at him upon his arrival, and stir up memories of shameful goings

on from that period of time and he can see how those things have affected those who are still there in Clarke's Flat.

There are some bits o' humor interspersed here and there that lighten the dark gritty tone of the story. The description of the town law officer's wife is priceless, 'with her axe-shaped jaw and perpetual five o'clock shadow, she was best described as handsome'. It also made me laugh when Peter walked into a house where incense was burning and he thought to himself how much he hated the smell of incense, that he would rather smell a docker's fart.

I enjoyed the references of Peter's youth, having grown up in the same time period my own bad self. Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, and Deep Purple's Made In Japan. Ah, memories.

Peter never did win me over, even though he eventually tried to right some wrongs. Too little, too late. There were only two characters I liked in the book, the Aboriginal Sam Saturday and Bindy the dog. By the same token, I was never tempted to stop reading, so that says something good about the writing.

Thank you to my Goodreads buddy, who loaned his giveaway copy to me to read.

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### **Nicole says**

Colourful characters(colourful language too!), a fascinating location and a good plot. I look forward to reading the next book starring Peter Clancy!

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