

MEDIA RELEASE

The VALLEY by STEVE HAWKE

ABOUT THE BOOK

A murder in the remote bush in 1916 sparks a chain of events that will haunt a family for generations. Hidden in the refuge of a secret valley, their tiny community lives unknown to the world. When, a century later, Broome schoolboy Dancer falls foul of the local bokie gang, he and his father head up the Gibb River Road. Here, in a maze of rugged ranges and remote communities, Dancer begins to unravel the truth behind the mysterious disappearance of Milly Rider, the mother he never knew. But the valley hides its secrets well. As Dancer learns the ways of his mother's country, he uncovers a precious inheritance – one not even those closest to Milly expected to find.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Hawke grew up in Melbourne but found his way to the Northern Territory and then to the Kimberley as a nineteen-year-old in 1978. Captivated by the country, the history and the people, he stayed for almost fifteen years working for Aboriginal communities and organisations. He now lives in the hills outside Perth, but continues his strong association with the Kimberley, returning most years. His writings on the Kimberley includes *Noonkanbah: Whose Land, Whose Law* (1989), the children's novel *Barefoot Kids* (2007), the play *Jandamarra* that premiered at the Perth International Arts Festival in 2008 and toured the Kimberley in 2011, and *A Town Is Born: The Fitzroy Crossing Story* (2013). *The Valley* is his first novel for adults.

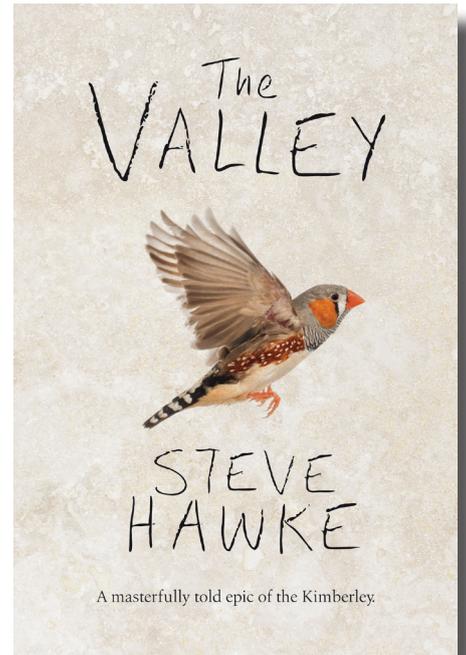


NOTES

- *The Valley* heralds the arrival of a major talent of Australian fiction. It is a mystery story, an uplifting intergenerational tale, and a captivating look into a little known world where things aren't always what they seem.
- Hawke is best known for *Jandamarra*, his play about the legendary Bunuba warrior who led a sustained campaign to defend Aboriginal country. Hawke then collaborated with composer Paul Stanhope, local Bunuba singers and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra on the choral production *Jandamarra: Sing for the Country*. It premiered at the Sydney Opera House in 2014.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

'*The Valley* deftly disentangles the accumulated driftwood of secrets, lies and fragmentary memory to reveal the redemptive power of coming to terms with our past. Steve Hawke draws us into a world that is respectfully and honestly grounded in decades of living in the Kimberley and working with Aboriginal communities, and in his own unique voice and humanity.' Stephen Kinnane



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