

INSEPARABLE ELEMENTS

by **PATSY MILLETT**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Dame Mary Durack Miller was born into a pastoral legacy that made her name famous even before she became one of Australia's most popular literary doyennes of the 20th century. Best known for her history of the Durack family, *Kings in Grass Castles*, Dame Mary was married to aviation pioneer Horrie Miller and was a sibling to the artist Elizabeth Durack. Among the multifarious threads woven into her life, she became a friend and confidant to many celebrated writers, actors and artists.

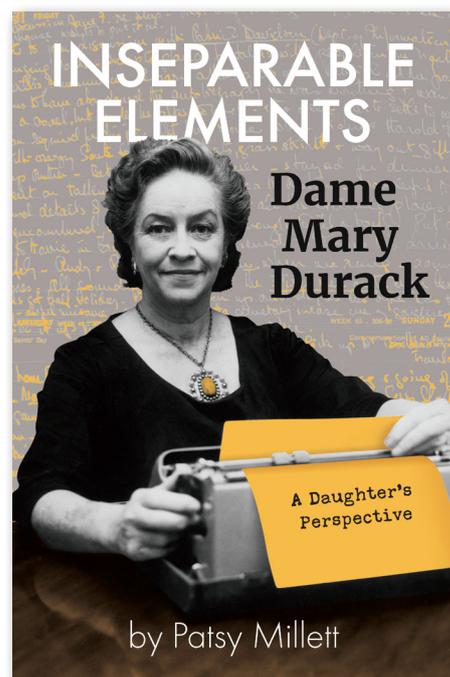
Drawing on a great accumulation of firsthand sources, principally her mother's diaries and correspondence, Patsy Millett's book is about a well-known family who viewed their prospects as blighted. Written from the unique perspective of someone born into the wash-up of the Durack dynasty, Patsy says her account 'will be controversial, as the reality behind the generally accepted facts has never been told'. Millett's story is unflinching. Her sharp, insightful prose and acerbic wit create an intimate portrait of an extraordinary writer whose family life was filled with triumph and tragedy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patsy Millett is the eldest daughter of the six children of pioneering aviator H.C. (Horrie) Miller and the author Dame Mary Durack Miller. Born at the outbreak of World War II and educated in Perth, WA, she travelled frequently to the West and East Kimberley regions where her family had property and pastoral stations. On leaving school she was employed in various capacities in Perth, London and Canada. A regular contributor of book reviews for the ABC and *Sunday Times*, she also wrote a humorous column for the *Sunday Independent*. From 1994 to 2006 she worked to collate the extensive Durack and Miller family archives for the State Library of WA and the National Library of Canberra. She has since continued to write on aspects of her family history.

NOTES

- This is the life of Dame Mary Durack Miller, AC DBE, from 1939 until her death in 1994, focussing on her relationships with her family and in particular with her husband the aviation pioneer Horrie (H.C.) Miller and her sister the artist Elizabeth Durack.
- The manuscript quotes liberally from Mary Durack's daily diary and her wide and personal correspondence with a number of close friends and associates from the broad scene of the arts, literature and politics in Australia over six decades.



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