Dark places: True crime writing in Australia
Abstract

The international genre of true crime writing has been adapted and reinvented in specific ways in an Australian context, where true crime has a particular cultural resonance in rhetorics of nation. The settlement of Australia as a penal colony, the violent and unresolved history of relations between settler and Indigenous cultures, and our national mythmaking surrounding criminal figures highlight the centrality of true crime and its narration to formations of national identity. True crime is a popular and growing contemporary genre, typically concentrating upon certain events and figures as kinds of cultural flashpoints, and it also has a long history, from colonial narratives to early twentieth-century pulp fiction. Yet it has been critically neglected in almost all its Australian forms. This article begins to explore what constitutes true crime writing in Australia, and the ramifications that examining this genre has for changing constructions of nation, culture and history. It is particularly interested in the way in which the genre exploits a narrative tension between story and discourse to mobilise the power of myth, superstition and affect. This fuels the genre’s exploration of cultural anxieties surrounding particular figures and events, and the paper uses the seminal text of [18x663] to exemplify the narrative strategies at work in the genre and their effect on the terms and certainties of national formations.

Keywords

true crime; nationalism; genre; Azaria Chamberlain; Evil Angels

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Start by marking “On Murder 2: True Crime Writing in Australia” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read.  Kerry has written twenty novels, a number of plays, including The Troubadours with Stephen D’Arcy, Kerry Greenwood was born in the Melbourne suburb of Footscray and after wandering far and wide, she returned to live there. She has a degree in English and Law from Melbourne University and was admitted to the legal profession on the 1st April 1982, a day which she finds both soothing and significant. Kerry has written twenty novels, a number of plays, including The Troubadours with Stephen D’Arcy, is an award-winning children’s writer and has edited and contributed to several anth These true crime stories are so horrific, it’s difficult to believe they actually happened, or that human beings could be capable of committing such atrocities. And yet, these stories are indeed all true. Sometimes, real life is a lot grimmer than fiction. Sometimes, real life involves murder, abduction, betrayal, torture, and death… 12 True Creepy Crimes That Will Make You Lock Your Doors Tonight. 1. Angela Hammond. For anyone not in Australia Housing Commission is cheap units or houses owned by the government and rented to disadvantaged people. Mostly junkies and welfare bludgers. Anyway I was sleeping in the lounge room which had the front door attached when I hear the most blood curling screams.