

Jacks And Jokers Matthew Condon

continuing on from the bestselling three crooked kings jacks and jokers opens in 1976 terry lewis exiled in western queensland is soon to be controversially appointed police commissioner as for the other two original crooked kings tony murphy is set to ruthlessly take control of the workings of the joke while glen hallahan retired from the force begins to show a keen interest in the emerging illicit drug trade meanwhile ex cop and bagman jack herbert collects the payments and efficiently takes police graft to a whole new level the joke heralds an era of hard drugs illegal gambling and prostitution and leaves in its wake a string of unsolved murders and a trail of dirty money with the highest levels of police and government turning a blind eye the careers of honest police officers and the lives of innocent civilians are threatened and often lost as corruption escalates out of control revealing more incredible facts and previously untold stories award winning journalist and novelist matthew condon once again exposes the shocking behaviour outside the law by the law jacks and jokers is the gripping second instalment of the rise and spectacular fall of one man an entire state and generations of corruption

he told her about his struggle in melbourne to turn himself into a british style officer for the australian army the nights in tents by the pyramids the terror of the landing under sniper fire and the scramble up the heights of gallipoli the filth and danger of the trenches at lone pine he showed her the scar above his right eye there was a lot he didn t tell her raised japanese in a european skin at the turn of the 20th century fate and circumstance would ensure that charles bavier spent his life caught between two cultures yet claimed by neither the illegitimate son of a swiss businessman charles was brought up by his father s japanese

mistress before setting off on an odyssey that took him into china's republican revolution against the manchus the anzac assault on gallipoli and british counter intelligence in pre war malaya bavier's journey finally led him into a little known allied psych war against japan as part of the vicious pacific war where his unique knowledge of japanese culture and language made him man of the hour this is the story of a man regarded at times as a spy by both the allies and the japanese but who remained true to the essential humanity of both sides of a dehumanised racial conflict though far from the glory he craved bavier saved thousands of lives in the south west pacific the japanese soldiers who surrendered and the americans and australians they would have taken with them a war of words traces the extraordinary life of charles bavier and is based on his own diaries and three decades of research by journalist and author hamish mcdonald

sequel to three crooked kings and jacks and jokers

three crooked kings is the shocking true story of queensland and how a society was shaped by almost half a century of corruption at its core is terence murray lewis deposed and jailed former police commissioner from his entry into the force in 1949 lewis rose through the ranks becoming part of the so called rat pack with detectives glendon patrick hallahan and tony murphy under the guiding influence of commissioner frank bischof the next four decades make for a searing tale of cops and killings bagmen and blackmail and sin and sleaze that exposes a police underworld which operated from queensland and into new south wales this gripping book exposes the final pieces of the puzzle unearths new evidence on cold cases and explores the pivotal role that whistleblower shirley brifman prostitute and brothel owner played until her sudden death based on extensive and unprecedented access to terry lewis and his personal papers as well as hundreds of interviews with key players and conspirators three crooked kings is the first of two explosive books awarded journalist and novelist matthew condon has crafted the definitive account of an era that changed a state and is still reverberating to this day

he takes you in the middle of the night like an angel and you're gone for good witness at vincent o'dempsey's committal hearing in 2017 vincent o'dempsey was sentenced to life in prison for the brutal murders of barbara mcculkin and her two young daughters it took over 40 years to bring him to justice feared for decades by criminals and police alike o'dempsey associated with convicted underworld figures and has been linked to a string of haunting cold cases including the deadly whiskey au go go nightclub firebombing that killed 15 innocent people award winning investigative journalist matthew condon has interviewed dozens of ex-cons police and witnesses to put together a compelling picture of the calculating killer who spent his life evading the law before he was finally brought to justice

little fish are sweet takes the reader behind the scenes of matthew's condon's epic six year three book journey as he fights intimidation and legal threats while relentlessly pursuing the truth investigating the web of cold murder cases and pedophile scandals of the past condon discovers that police corruption is only one part of a much bigger and more disturbing story what is revealed in little fish are sweet will make your blood boil

i keep coming back to the light of brisbane if you are born into it this palette of gentle pinks and oranges at dawn and dusk the blast white of midday in summer the lemon luminescence of mid morning and mid afternoon you keep it with you and measure all other light by it if

you live away from it then step back into it it is the first thing that tells you you're home in this book the third in a series on australian cities in which leading australian authors write about their home city novelist and journalist matthew condon rediscovers the city of his childhood brisbane having returned there after many years condon takes the reader on a unique and personal journey through contemporary brisbane unearthing its history sometimes literally and painting a portrait of the contemporary transformation of the city

what's a forty something salesman of made in asia trinkets to do when he comes adrift from the safe moorings of marriage and washes up in the lime bar it's to the lime bar where gustave the barman dispenses gin and advice with gallic savoir faire that matt condon's hapless salesman always returns after every misadventure of the heart dallying past midnight in a gold coast hotel pool reclaiming his masculinity with the mountain men sampling the bars and bedrooms of the sydney scene and losing himself in a fairytale france the choices are frequently disastrous the cost of wisdom often too high and the final adventure is the most unexpected of all a deliciously witty and bittersweet portrait of a man looking for love in all the wrong places by the award winning author of the pillow fight

affectionate and humourous portrait of an oddball father

brucey bird is the tycoon administrator of an island whose idyllic landscape thinly conceals the shiploads of debris dumped on its shores matthew condon's bizarre imagination creates a wittily pertinent fable of australian history

i shouldn't be here in a hospital bed with a bullet in my thigh a recently retired nsw copper on the gold coast hunting for his retirement property in which to enjoy his twilight years finds himself passing an old foe boltcutter from the kings cross underworld as he walks toward main beach before he knows it he is embroiled in the hunt for some missing ian fairweather paintings and trying to resolve a cold case or two

a novel set on the gold coast the story follows the rise fall and redemption of icarus a penthouse salesman the author's previous books the motorcycle cafe usher and the ancient guild of tycoons have all been shortlisted for literary awards

related stories about a man who left england to start a new life in australia

a dramatic fictionalisation of the great australian rebel journalist wilfred burchett's flight into hiroshima a month after the atomic bomb was dropped in august 1945 before japan formally surrendered burchett made his way by train from tokyo to hiroshima against the orders of gen douglas macarthur to see first hand the devastation of the bomb the journey itself took 24 perilous hours the train filled with decommissioned japanese soldiers who were technically still at war when he arrived he believed he had walked into hell he saw people dying of a strange illness a month after the bomb his report morse coded out of hiroshima with the help of complicit japanese journalists was the first report by a western witness out of the city and caused a furore all over the world the story was titled i write this as a warning to the world this novel is a parable of that extraordinary moment but moreso of human atrocity and its relationship to truth and lies to the media and to the perception of evil what burchett went through the attempt to censor him and either block or shape his work as witness has been repeated over and over in korea vietnam and more recently iraq on a human level burchett

would go on to be one of the most controversial journalists and public figures in australian history but in 1945 he was relatively unknown a newcomer to foreign reportage an innocent and what he witnessed during those two harrowing days in hiroshima changed him and his view of the world and shaped him forever matt condon spent time with wilfred s son george who described how wilfred came out of hiroshima a different man determined to fight for the oppressed of the world for the rest of his life which he did often in controversial circumstances the novel looks at an australian at the centre of one of the greatest events of the 20th century it s a great untold story with eerie echoes for today

retirement can be murder the adventures of a former sydney detective from 21 division who in his prime collared some of the most murderous criminals in australian history yet on retiring to the gold coast in queensland along with half of the criminal milieu he once pursued is shot king hit tortured and thrown from buildings in his relentless pursuit of justice with his trademark wit warmth and humour matthew condon takes us on a crazy ride in boats kombis peugeots and window washing platforms through art galleries libraries swampy islands and caravan parks to illustrate that we are never too old for adventures

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