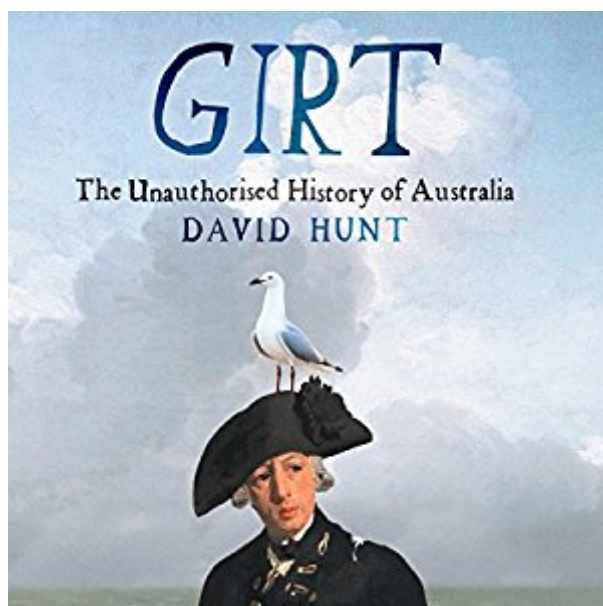


The book was found

Girt: The Unauthorised History Of Australia



Synopsis

Girt. No word could better capture the essence of Australia.... In this hilarious history, David Hunt reveals the truth of Australia's past, from megafauna to Macquarie - the cock-ups and curiosities, the forgotten eccentrics and Eureka moments that have made us who we are. Girt introduces forgotten heroes like Mary McLoughlin, transported for the crime of "felony of sock", and Trim the cat, who beat a French monkey to become the first animal to circumnavigate Australia. It recounts the misfortunes of the escaped Irish convicts who set out to walk from Sydney to China, guided only by a hand-drawn paper compass, and explains the role of the coconut in Australia's only military coup. Our nation's beginnings are steeped in the strange, the ridiculous, and the frankly bizarre. Girt proudly reclaims these stories for all of us. Not to listen to it would be un-Australian.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 43 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: April 19, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B00WAFMO9S

Best Sellers Rank: #19 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Australia & Oceania #216 in Books > History > Australia & Oceania > Australia & New Zealand #542 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor

Customer Reviews

You can't help but enjoy David Hunt's irreverent look at the history of Australia from year dot to the end of Macquarie's term as governor. Free of political correctness and everything which made history boring at school, Hunt takes us through the ups and downs of the colony's early years with many a good belly laugh. You'll also find quite a few new interesting facts about our early history as well. Extremely readable and amusing, yet still informative, all history should be like this.

As a lover history I found this recount of the 'discovery' of Australia informative and hilarious. The author depicts Aussie icons - warts and all (well syphilis and all). Forget what you thought about the first settlers, you'll never look at Australian history in the same way again - The foot notes had me

laugh out loud.

I finished Girt last night. It's a darkly hilarious and historically accurate satire of Australian history. If Terry Pratchett was a historian, rather than a fantasy author, he'd have produced work like this. You'd like this if Python, Adams, Pratchett or Bryson are up your thing.

I would rate this a solid 4. There are some really interesting bits and pieces revealed in this light hearted account of Early post-contact Australia. Unfortunately I haven't mastered my Kindle sufficiently so as to easily access the footnotes, and this is important. I doubt whether the author was really looking for balance but given the soporific shallowness of the standard portrait of our early leaders this is a plus. I look forward to his treatment of later periods but suspect he needs to confine himself to the well and truly dead.

Very amusing and very well written. Full of quirky vignettes generally irreverent and politically incorrect. I am not really a history buff but I am delighted that I tried something different on this occasion. The fact that Amanda Vanstone has publicly indicated similar enthusiasm as myself is of some concern but we also share an affection for red wine apparently so perhaps we are soul mates despite my reservations.

Irreverent but lovingly written history of early Australia. This evidently the first volume of several yet to come, it goes through the early 1800's. Seems historically accurate though laced with a lot of barbed opinion. Good light read if you want to know a bit about how the land down under came to be, without delving in too much historical minutiae. You get the inside scoop, and skewers some of the myths and legends as written by the victors with a whimsical look at the human foibles and hubris that accompany empire building.

You will either love or hate this book. I loved it. I have always enjoyed reading about Australia's early history and how we came to be but I can also see how some people find history to be boring. This book is very funny in parts and gives an unorthodox view of the early comings and goings of the NSW colony after the first fleet. I have a similar sense of humour and I identified with this book however I can see how the purists may not take to this style of writing about our history. Books of this style might get more people reading about our history. The book has a number of interesting footnotes to the chapters and I laughed out aloud at most of them. I am looking forward to another

installment and I hope there is one coming soon.

Hunt prefaces his Introduction with a quote from Homer Simpson: "It's funny because it's true." Both the substance and source of the quote identify the tone of "Girt." Putting it more directly in his Acknowledgements, Hunt says he "wondered whether I could write an Australian history that was both accurate and amusing." Although it is evident that not all readers agree, I think he managed both pretty well. I learned some new things, obtained a better appreciation of some things that I thought I knew, and laughed a lot along the way. I am not a scholar of Australian history, but have read several serious treatments of the early days covered by this Volume 1 (which roughly concludes with Macquarie's demise in 1824), and Hunt appears scrupulously accurate on the facts. He also adds a good deal not included in standard histories that is not only amusing but sometimes quite telling in its particulars. Of course, what Hunt makes of the facts is another matter. A blurb on the jacket rightly refers to this as "hilarious history." Readers might be forgiven if they occasionally feel awash in puns, clever innuendos and satirical claims. So, probably you should not make this your exclusive source for the history of the persons and period treated! But either as an antidote to drier treatments or simply for a good deal of fun, I am happy to recommend "Girt" --- and I look forward to Volume 2.

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