Outback Odyssey
A triumph of narrative depth and cultural resonance, Outback Odyssey is a soaring tale of discovery, identity, and the untold histories woven into the red earth of 19th-century Australia. At once a gripping adventure and a searing meditation on truth and reconciliation, this novel blazes with heart, urgency, and vision.

When young Yorkshireman Jimmy finds himself marooned in the wild expanse of Gippsland, he stumbles not only into the arms of survival—but into the spiritual embrace of the Munarrakalai people, whose ancient wisdom begins to reshape everything he thought he knew. Through the mentorship of a sagacious Aboriginal stockman and the sacred teachings of the Elders, Jimmy learns to see the land not as a possession, but as kin—a living archive of story, song, and spirit.

But just as Jimmy finds belonging in this deeply spiritual world, fate presents a moral reckoning: a weathered map tied to the legendary SS Avoca gold heist of 1877. What begins as a hunt for lost treasure spirals into a harrowing quest through a landscape haunted by colonial violence, betrayal, and buried truths. As the dream of gold tempts and corrupts, Jimmy must choose: legacy or loyalty, conquest or connection, greed or grace.

Outback Odyssey is more than historical fiction—it is a literary tapestry, rich with allegory, honouring the Voice of Australia's First Peoples and reflecting the nation’s ongoing journey toward justice and understanding. Paul Rushworth-Brown crafts each scene with cinematic vividness, infusing his characters with raw emotion and unflinching humanity. From ancient Dreamtime to frontier hardship, every chapter beats with the soul of a divided but dreaming country.

This novel is a landmark achievement—a timely, courageous work that dares to listen, dares to speak, and dares to remember. Perfect for readers of *Kate Grenville*, *Richard Flanagan*, and *Alexis Wright*, it’s also an irresistible proposition for filmmakers seeking a powerful, visually stunning story with contemporary resonance.

Outback Odyssey is not just a novel—it’s an invocation. Of land. Of memory. Of truth. It is the story Australia needs now.

**Outback Odyssey**
*A sweeping tale of land, legacy, and lost gold – where one young man’s journey into the heart of Australia becomes a powerful reckoning with its soul.*

Set against the untamed beauty and brutal realities of 19th-century Gippsland, *Outback Odyssey* is more than a gripping historical adventure—it’s a poignant exploration of identity, survival, and the enduring legacy of colonisation. As the sunburnt earth whispers the stories of its First Peoples, a new narrative emerges—one that bridges past and present, myth and memory.

At the centre of the story is **Jimmy**, a young Yorkshireman adrift in a strange new world. Lost in the harsh frontier, he is rescued and mentored by a wise Aboriginal stockman of the Munarrakalai people. Under his guidance and through the deep teachings of the Elders, Jimmy sheds the blinders of empire and begins to see the land not as something to tame, but as a living, sacred entity—rich in story, meaning, and spirit.

His transformation is profound. But just as he finds belonging, an old weathered map surfaces—tied to the infamous 1877 SS *Avoca* gold heist. What begins as a search for stolen treasure turns into a perilous odyssey through betrayal, greed, and colonial violence. Ghosts of the past rise, and Jimmy must navigate a landscape where every step uncovers buried truths—about the country, its people, and himself.

With the ancestral Munarrakalai way of life under threat, Jimmy’s journey becomes more than survival—it becomes a fight for remembrance, for justice, and for truth.

Told through the lens of historical fiction, *Outback Odyssey* is an allegorical reflection of the nation’s ongoing struggle to reconcile with its past. Echoing the spirit of Australia’s 2023 Indigenous Voice referendum, the story places the reader inside the beating heart of a divided land—asking what it truly means to *listen* to First Peoples, to *respect* ancient knowledge, and to *walk forward* together.

Richly cinematic, emotionally raw, and historically grounded, *Outback Odyssey* is perfect for readers who love epic storytelling with purpose—and for producers seeking a timely, visually striking, and socially resonant project. It is a call to honour the land, to hear its heartbeat in the stories of its people, and to consider the legacy we choose to leave behind.

**🎬 Short Film/TV Pitch Deck Synopsis (Producer-Focused)**

**Outback Odyssey**
*Genre: Historical Drama / Adventure | Setting: 19th-Century Australia*

A young Yorkshireman finds himself lost in the unforgiving wilds of Gippsland—only to be saved by an Aboriginal stockman who introduces him to the spiritual and cultural lifeways of the Munarrakalai people. As Jimmy learns to see the land through Indigenous eyes, a mysterious map tied to the 1877 SS *Avoca* gold heist sends him on a perilous quest where the ghosts of colonisation, greed, and betrayal still haunt the present.

This is a sweeping, character-driven historical epic that parallels Australia’s modern-day reconciliation efforts, including the national dialogue surrounding the 2023 Indigenous Voice referendum. *Outback Odyssey* is ripe for adaptation—a story rich in visual texture, emotional depth, and cultural resonance, perfect for global audiences hungry for stories that matter.

Think *The Revenant* meets *High Ground* with the soul of *Tracks*.

**📘 Back Cover Copy (Reader-Focused)**

**Outback Odyssey**
*One map. One young man. One nation’s untold history.*

When Jimmy, a wide-eyed Yorkshire lad, is stranded on the Gippsland frontier, he’s taken in by a wise Aboriginal stockman and introduced to the sacred traditions of the Munarrakalai people. As he learns to see the land not as a conquest but a living story, an old map tied to a legendary gold heist thrusts him into a dangerous journey through betrayal, greed, and colonial violence.

Blending gripping adventure with powerful themes of identity, survival, and truth, *Outback Odyssey* is a soul-stirring historical novel that echoes Australia’s modern quest for reconciliation. In a time when the voices of the land’s First Peoples grow stronger, Jimmy’s journey becomes our own.

**🎯 Emotional & Evocative**

* *"One journey through the past to heal a nation's soul."*
* *"The land remembers. The people endure. The truth demands to be heard."*

**🔥 Adventure-Driven**

* *"Gold. Betrayal. A map that could change everything."*
* *"A lost map. A sacred land. A reckoning awaits."*

**🌏 Cultural & Reflective**

* *"When you truly listen to the land, it speaks the truth."*
* *"Before a nation can move forward, it must first hear its past."*

**🎬 For Film/TV Adaptation**

* *"In the outback, the past is never buried."*
* *"A frontier tale where survival meets spirit, and the future meets the past."*

**🎬 Poster Concepts for “Outback Odyssey”**

**🖼️ Poster Concept 1: “The Reckoning”**
**Visual**: A wide shot of the Australian outback at dusk—golden light hitting red earth. In the foreground, Jimmy stands at the edge of a cliff, holding an old weathered map, looking toward distant smoke rising. Behind him, an Aboriginal Elder’s shadow is cast across the land.

**Tagline**:
*“In the outback, the past is never buried.”*

**🖼️ Poster Concept 2: “Two Worlds”**
**Visual**: A split-screen image. One side shows a rugged colonial settlement; the other shows an Indigenous corroboree under moonlight. In the center, Jimmy’s silhouette, torn between both worlds.

**Tagline**:
*“Before a nation can move forward, it must first hear its past.”*

**🖼️ Poster Concept 3: “The Map”**
**Visual**: A close-up of an old, cracked map with a bloodstained corner. In the background, layered faintly, is a faded image of the SS *Avoca*, an Aboriginal rock painting, and a figure running across the plains.

**Tagline**:
*“A lost map. A sacred land. A reckoning awaits.”*

**🎞️ Teaser Trailer Script (60 seconds)**

**[FADE IN: Wind whispers through tall grass. The haunting sound of a didgeridoo begins.]**

**NARRATOR (V.O.)**
*“They told him the land was empty. That it needed taming.”*

**[CUT TO: Jimmy collapsing in the outback heat, gasping for breath. A dark-skinned hand reaches down.]**

**NARRATOR (V.O.)**
*“But in the heart of Gippsland, he found a world older than empire—where stories are sung into the soil.”*

**[MONTAGE: Indigenous Elders teaching Jimmy; traditional scar ceremony; glimpses of native fauna and Dreamtime art.]**

**[RUMBLE OF THUNDER]**

**[FLASH IMAGE: An old map being unfolded. A corner reads: *SS Avoca – 1877.*]**

**NARRATOR (V.O.)**
*“A map of stolen gold… a legacy of betrayal… and a truth that cannot be buried.”*

**[FAST-CUT SEQUENCE: Fires, colonial soldiers, Indigenous resistance, a cliffside standoff.]**

**[FADE TO BLACK]**

**TEXT ON SCREEN:**
*“Outback Odyssey”*

**TAGLINE:**
*“The land remembers. The people endure. The truth demands to be heard.”*

**[SOUND: A single clapstick strike echoes.]**