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WRITER & LUCID DREAMER REIMAGINES AUSTRALIA – POST COLLAPSE

Australian Dystopian Fiction, EAT MY SHADOW, from author of *Living the Good Life*

RELEASED 21 AUGUST



20 years ago the world went quiet.

Father is stranded between the living world and the lost, he saw the end and he can't let it go. Finn was a child when it collapsed. Now he's a young green vine growing up through the ribcage of a lost civilisation.

It's 2053, Father and Finn live alone in a remote valley in Tasmania. Everything is about to change. A story of survival, of being lost and finding ourselves again, and the love between a father and son.

Early Reviews

Love it! Real page turner. Read it in one sitting. The characters are engaging and real, the situations logical and believable with great tension and a pleasing ending. Timely as fuck.

Annette Hughes – retired Literary Agent/Cameron Cresswell

Wow. I absolutely loved it. Best thing I've read for ages. Amazing writing. And so many quotable word pictures of how we got here. The story is totally engrossing.

Dr Helen Merrick – ex Senior Lecturer Curtin University – Professional Writing.

Excerpt: Father removed a yellowed newspaper from a box stuffed with neatly indexed editions. He read out an article quoting Alan Winchester, the last Prime Minister of Australia. Winchester's indiscreet comments made in front of a journalist at a party had caused a national uproar.

'Climate Change and talk of mass starvation don't worry me; as far as I'm concerned, future generations can eat my shadow and swallow my echo.' Later, when asked to comment, Alan Winchester said it resulted from a gastric attack due to an adverse reaction between veal and scotch.

Father tapped the article several times, drew in his breath, then carefully folded the newspaper and tucked it back in the box. 'His was a shadow which cast no shade.' And shoved it to the back of the shelf.

WHAT PEOPLE KNOW...

Linda Cockburn is best known for challenging her family to go six months without spending a dollar by growing their own food, using bicycles for transport, harvesting rainwater and sunlight from their roof in ***Living the Good Life, How One Family Changed Their World From Their Own Backyard***. Hardie Grant, 2006.

As a result the family had three television appearances and radio, newspaper and magazine coverage, including Time Magazine. Linda has written for *ABC Organic Gardener Magazine* since 2004.

More recently (2022) Linda has appeared on **ABC Gardening Australia** with partner Trev Wittmer about their rare heirloom seed business, ***Seed Freaks*** (recently sold).



Linda Cockburn

WHAT PEOPLE DON'T...

Is that Linda wrote much of the book while lucid dreaming, a technique that took years to establish, but now allows her to write, usually in the middle of the night, and often without recollection.

'I didn't realise what I was doing until I stumbled upon a description of lucid dreaming. I'm not awake and I'm not asleep. The ego falls away and insights and connections I might not have seen are suddenly revealed.

I see everything like a movie, hear the words and can pull back out to record long passages by memory, often in reverse.'

**Linda's passion is to connect people with the lives their descendants,
and emphasise the part they're playing in them.**

"I regret some poor bastard, someone like me, bought a shipment of his favourite books to Tasmania. Some of them had the mutant form of silverfish in them. First discovered in tropical Darwin. *Lepisma saccharina vorare*. Vorare is the root word of voracious. And they are. People joked a single vorare could eat more books than the average person read. It was a joke due to the high number of people who'd never read one. Sad, but a joke nevertheless.

Once in Tasmania they'd spread rapidly. *Book cancer*, people called it. The volume you held in your hand might look healthy from the outside, but opened it was a masticated interior with convoluted burrows, larvae and crusted silverfish shit. It was as if nature was doing its best to eradicate, not just us, but our history. The silent promise of words that might outlive us, instead became food for an unthinking army of hungry insects."

Excerpt from Father, etymologist from UTAS



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ISBN: 978-0-6455142-0-9 \$24.95 (pbk)
ISBN: 978-0-6455142-4-7 \$9.95 (epub)
ISBN: 978-0-6455142-5-4 \$9.95 (mobi)