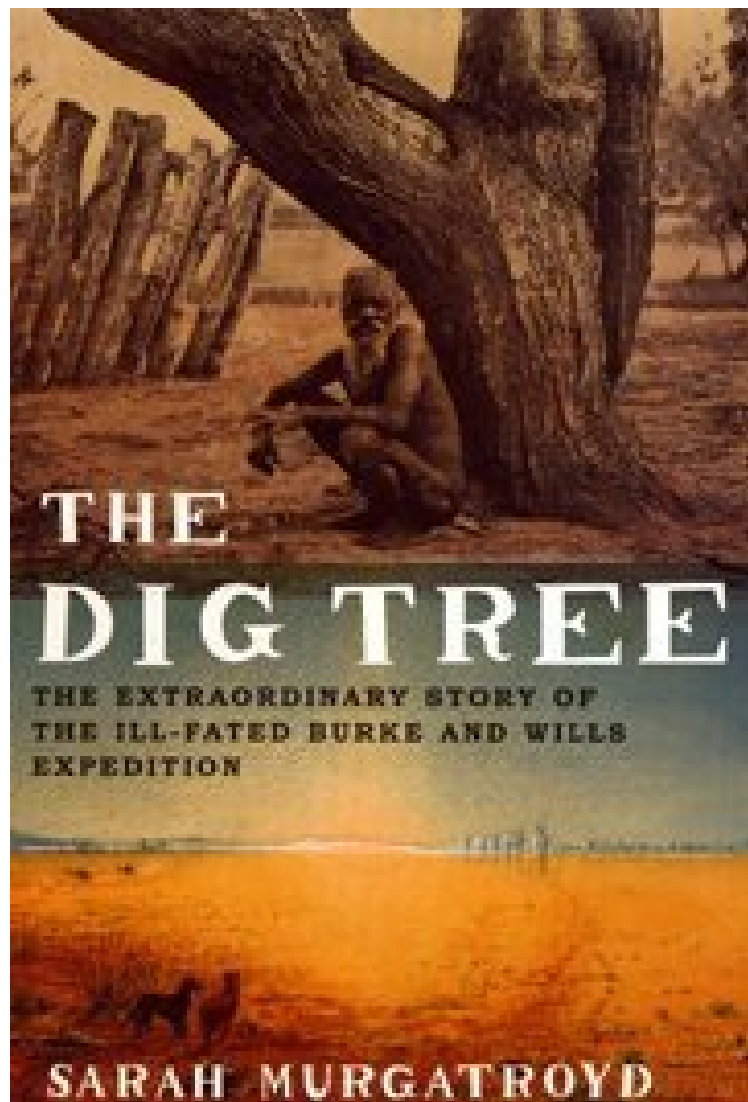


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## The Dig Tree: The Extraordinary Story of the Ill-fated Burke and Wills 1860 Expedition

*Sarah Murgatroyd*

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soon. Tragic account of how the best laid plans of mice and men often can and do fail. Heroic, compelling and fraught with near misses and human tragedy and suffering. Very well written by Sarah Murgatroyd. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Interested Buyer Well written saga of a sad, but interesting piece of history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer really interesting book

In 1860, Australia remained the truly dark continent. Although there were European settlements in its south, much of the north remained unknown and dangerous. But things were changing. On 20th August, 1860, The Victorian Exploring Expedition left Melbourne to make the journey into the Gulf of Carpentaria in the northern coast. The expedition was headed by an Irish policeman called Robert O'Hara Burke - a charmer, gambler, and a man infamous for taking long baths in his back garden. Burke and his team of eighteen men made a confident start. After leaving most of the group behind in Cooper Creek (in central Australia), three of the party, including Burke, reached the Carpentaria. They were the first ever to do so. But the journey back was riddled with mishap and bad luck. By the time the three had returned to Cooper Creek, exhausted and starving, they discovered that the rest of the party had retreated, leaving behind only a carved message on a coolibah tree. The "Dig Tree" is the tale of this tragic expedition. Sarah Murgatroyd brings the story vividly alive - the political events in the background, the colourful characters, the spectacular and, often, unforgiving landscape, and the awful desperation of the final days. It is an intelligent, evocative and above all, utterly gripping book.

'Remarkable. Murgatroyd has an eye for the drama ... her skill in story-telling and immaculate research, means that there is barely a dull moment' Scotland on Sunday 'A beautifully told story' Sunday Telegraph 'Murgatroyd demonstrates a profound understanding of topography and climate in this gripping tale' Sunday Times About the Author Sarah Murgatroyd was born in England in 1967. She worked for the BBC and, until her death in April 2002, lived in Sydney with her husband.