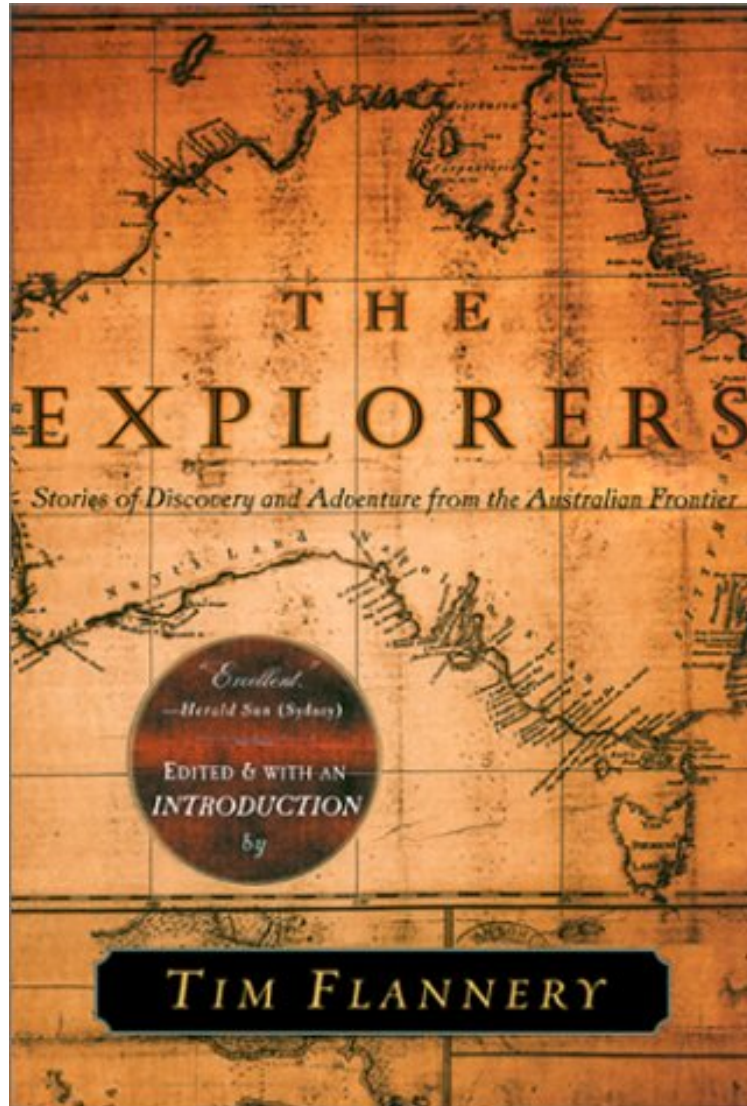


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The Explorers: Stories of Discovery and Adventure from the Australian Frontier

From Tim Flannery

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From Tim Flannery : The Explorers: Stories of Discovery and Adventure from the Australian Frontier before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Explorers: Stories of Discovery and Adventure from the Australian Frontier:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great selections, poor introsBy Earnest SludgeIt always amazes me

that so many of these old exploration books are out of print. I'd like to see so many of them brought out again, in edited form, and published again. This was real-life adventure back before every square centimeter of the earth was cataloged and put in a global database, cross-indexed and matrixed. All the selections were good, except maybe a couple of the last ones in the second half of the 20th century. The age of exploration was pretty much over by the turn of the 20th. The last selection in the book was real Sunday newspaper magazine tripe. Can't help but wonder what another book would be like, one that made the selections for reasons solely of drama and novelty instead of for this bleeding-heart Leftist agenda Flannery seems to have. The intros to each selection provide good info but they also contain obnoxious material that's patronizing to both the reader and the aborigines he makes such a big fuss about caring for. Maybe this book was originally intended as a text book for 12 years olds? Even worse, a few of the intros contain spoilers about the entries they introduce! It's like he ran out of preachy things to say about the aborigines so he tells us how to feel about the suspense and drama to come. In other words, he has a compulsion to tell the reader how to feel about things. Gross! My advice to someone buying this book is to read the entries themselves and skip the intros until you've finished the book, if at all. This book made me seek out a couple other titles by Flannery, old explorer books edited by him. One by Watkin Tench and another by Matthew Flinders. Any port in a storm. I hate reading PDFs on my laptop (and I've read quite a few) and I don't want to invest in an eReader. As for my feelings about aborigines: I hate civilization and I admire primitive peoples almost to exaltation. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read for travel. By Pamela This book consists of brief excerpts from journals, letters and diaries of those foolish or brave enough to push beyond the known world along Australia's seaboard. These explorers demonstrated unfathomable foolishness, unquenchable curiosity, bullheaded ethnocentricity, and, in too few cases, a passion for discovery for its own sake. As a reader you will be horrified, entertained, and enlightened by their adventures and misadventures. I just returned from a trip to Australia and took this book along with me to read. It was perfect for a visitor with little knowledge of Australian history beyond Hughes' "Fatal Shore" (another great read). 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Long overdue. By Serious photographer When I studied history for matriculation in New South Wales back in 1958-1959, there was no subject available to me called "Australian History". The two history subjects available were Ancient History and Modern History. Modern History was, in fact, the history of modern Europe. These days, it seems inconceivable that the school system at matriculation level back then could completely ignore the history of Australia, and the history of its nearest neighbours. Although the European settlement of Australia is relatively recent, the Aboriginal history of Australia covers millennia. The former received scant attention in earlier school years, the latter, none at all. (One presumes that Australian history is now accorded the place it deserves in the school curriculum, and receives a fuller and more balanced treatment). Because of this background, I found Tim Flannery's book of enormous interest. The meagre Australian history once taught consisted of drawing maps of the routes taken by explorers, and little else, or so it seems to fading memory. Tim Flannery relates his own experience: "The men were just names, their journeys snail-trails across paper. No attempt was made to bring exploring to life, perhaps because the inconvenient details about Aborigines and barren wastes would have simply got in the way of the main message: that the Europeans had triumphed". We are indebted to Tim Flannery for redressing the balance in this book, in the course of which we can read some superb writing that would otherwise be hard to come by. Some Australian history may be dull, but the history of exploration, as told by the explorers themselves, is instructive, exciting, and still relevant.

A lively collection of extraordinary stories of adventure and discovery, *The Explorers* tells the epic saga of the conquest and settlement of Australia. Editor Tim Flannery selects sixty-seven accounts that convey the sense of wonder and discovery, along with the human dimensions of struggle and deprivation, which occurred in the exploration of the last continent to be fully mapped by Europeans. Beginning with the story of Dutch captain Willem Jansz's 1606 expedition at Cape York -- the bloody outcome of which would sadly foreshadow future relations between colonists and Aboriginal peoples -- and running through Robyn Davidson's 1977 camelback ride through the desolate Outback deserts, *The Explorers* bristles with the enterprise that Flannery explains as "heroic, for nowhere else did explorers face such an obdurate country."

From *Library Journal* There are few things more interesting than reading the actual words of explorers. These are the people who witness history at its creation, and through their eyes (and words) we can truly travel back in time. Imagine, then, the experiences of explorers seeing the spectacularly beautiful continent of Australia for the first time. After a long sea voyage, they come upon a land inhabited by a culture that has been on Earth longer than any other. Struggling to find similarities with their homelands, they give this wild country names that reflect their heritage but know all the while that they have ventured into something completely unknown to them. Detailing events from the 1606 discovery of "Nova Guinea" to a solo camel ride through the outback in 1977, the 67 stories in this anthology often read like science fiction and sizzle with suspense. Flannery's (Throwim' Way Leg) thoughtful introduction and his comprehensive bibliography are alone almost worth the price of the book. All libraries will do their patrons a favor by offering them this collection of firsthand accounts of the taming of a challenging continent. A Joseph L. Carlson,

Lampoc P.L., CA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The conquest and settlement of Australia proves just as exciting as the conquest and settlement of North America, as readers will behold in this engrossing anthology prepared by Flannery, the director of the South Australia Museum. He has gathered 67 excerpts from a variety of accounts of Australian exploration, each one offering "the experience of being a fly on the wall at exemplary moments in Australian history" and each one, with a single exception, written by an eyewitness. The chronology ranges from 1606, when Willem Jansz (commanding a Dutch ship) paid the first authenticated visit to Australia by a European, to 1977, when a physician by the name of W. J. Peasley took his four-wheel-drive vehicle out into the Gibson Desert during severe drought conditions to rescue an elderly Aboriginal couple. In between are such interesting stories as the first European to obtain evidence of the existence of the koala (in 1802) and an 1848 narrative by an Aborigine about the tragic end of the John Kennedy Cape York expedition. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Tim Flannery was born in Melbourne in 1956. He lives in Sydney, where he is Principal Research Scientist at the Australian Museum. In 1998 he was appointed Visiting Professor of Australian Studies at Harvard University.