



[The deep]

By Perry, Kyle

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Genre and Subject

Australian fiction

Missing persons -- Fiction

Drug dealers -- Fiction

Families -- Fiction

Thrillers (Fiction)

Synopsis

If you encounter the Black Wind while out there at sea, all you can do is race back to shore. There's no predicting it, no sailing it, no living with it. And if you're a Dempsey, it can play tricks on your mind. . . On the Tasman Peninsula, nestled amidst the largest sea-cliffs in the southern hemisphere, is Shacktown. Here the Dempsey family have run a drug ring for generations, using the fishing industry and the deadly Black Wind as cover. But when thirteen-year-old Forest Dempsey walks out of the ocean, bruised and branded, everything is imperilled - because Forest has been believed dead for the last seven years. Mackerel Dempsey, out of jail on strict bail conditions, is trying to change his fate, doing his best to keep out of trouble before his next court date. His cousin Ahab has renounced the family altogether, in favour of working to keep the town and its fragile tourism economy safe. But in their search for answers about Forest, both Mackerel and Ahab can't help but be drawn back into the underworld. What on earth happened to the boy all those years ago? And does it have anything to do with the infamous drug kingpin Blackbeard, who is rumoured to be moving in on Shacktown? When secrets long thought buried at sea wash up on shore, generations of the Dempsey family must stand up for what they believe in, even if it means sacrificing everything. But in the gritty fight between right and wrong, blood isn't always thicker than water, and everyone is at risk of being pulled under...

Author Biography

Kyle Perry is a counsellor who has worked extensively in high schools, youth shelters and drug rehabs. In his work he encounters stories and journeys that would fill a hundred books. Kyle's mother grew up in the foothills of the Great Western Tiers, in Tasmania's heartland, where his grandfather was called on for search and rescues in the mountains. Kyle himself has been lost in Tasmanian mountains twice, and once used ripped pages of a journal stuck on branches to find his way back out. He has also seen strange things in the bush that defy explanation and are best not spoken about. Kyle divides his time between his small country hometown in Tasmania's North West and Hobart. The Bluffs is his debut novel.

Discussion Starters

1. What role does the Black Wind play in the book?
2. What do you think it means to be 'a good man', and do you believe Mackerel Dempsey succeeds in his desire to become one?
3. Ahab is the only morally decent human in the family. Discuss.
4. Did you love Forest, or loathe him? How much responsibility do you think he can take for his own actions?
5. Did Shelby go too far in trying to protect her family?
6. Discuss the significance of the geographically distinctive setting of the Tasman Peninsula.
7. Which scene in the book did you find was the most shocking, and why? Which twist the most surprising?
8. What do you think is the moral of this story?
9. What thematic similarities did you find between *The Deep* and Kyle Perry's previous novel, *The Bluffs*?

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