



Australian Patriography

How Sons Write Fathers in Contemporary Life Writing

Stephen Mansfield

Pub Date: May 2013
Binding: Hardback
Price: £60 / \$99
ISBN: 9780857283306

Category: LITERARY CRITICISM /
 Australian & Oceanian
BISAC code: LIT004070
BIC code: DSK

Extent: 222 pages
Size: 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6

Rights Held: World

Description

A study of modern Australian life writing by sons who focus on their fathers that offers compelling readings of Raimond Gaita's *Romulus, My Father*, Peter Rose's *Rose Boys* and many others.

'This thoroughly insightful study of patriography fills an important gap in life writing scholarship. Mansfield makes a crucial contribution to Australian literary studies in his analysis of autobiography, masculinity and the paternal inheritance. *Australian Patriography* offers an original and significant review of contemporary literatures which will resonate broadly.' —*Kate Douglas, author of 'Contesting Childhood: Autobiography, Trauma and Memory'*

'*Australian Patriography* illustrates the major virtues of scholarly writing: depth, incisiveness and clarity. It ambitiously brings together literary and sociological interests in the service of superb textual analysis. Stephen Mansfield's study is not only a major addition to the scholarship of Australian life writing, but to that of life writing generally.' —*David McCoey, author of 'Artful Histories: Modern Australian Autobiography'*

The Son's Book of the Father, as Richard Freadman termed it, is a rich field of relational autobiography, offering a unique set of tensions and insights into modes of masculinity, notions of identity and the ethics of representing another's life in writing one's own.

This study of modern Australian life writing by sons who focus on fathers places an emerging sub-genre within its literary ancestry and its contemporary milieu. Providing compelling readings of Raimond Gaita's *Romulus, My Father*, Peter Rose's *Rose Boys* and many others, this is the first study of its kind within Australian literature.

Readership: This work will benefit Australian literature students and specialists as well as life-writing scholars, particularly those with an interest in contemporary masculinity studies.

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About the Author

Stephen Mansfield is an independent scholar as well as a casual research assistant and tutor in the Department of English at Sydney University, Australia.

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