



The Plains: Text Classics

Gerald Murnane, Wayne Macauley

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Winner of the Patrick White Literary Award, 1999. Introduction by Wayne Macauley.

There is no book in Australian literature like *The Plains*. In the two decades since its first publication, this haunting novel has earned its status as a classic.

A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail, 'a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself'.

Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. He has left Victoria only a handful of times and has never been on an aeroplane. His first novel, *Tamarisk Row*, was published in 1974, and was followed by seven other works of fiction, most recently, *Barley Patch*. He has also published a collection of essays, *Invisible Yet Enduring Lilacs* (2005). In 1999, Gerald Murnane won the Patrick White Award. In 2009 he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature.

Wayne Macauley is the author of three novels, *Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe* (2004), *Caravan Story* (2007) and *The Cook* (2011), and the short fiction collection *Other Stories* (2010). He lives in Melbourne.

'Murnane is quite simply one of the finest writers we have produced.' Peter Craven

'A distinguished, distinctive, unforgettable novel.' Shirley Hazzard

'Gerald Murnane is unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today and *The Plains* is a fascinating and rewarding book...The writing is extraordinarily good, spare, austere, strong, often oddly moving.' *Australian*

'A piece of imaginative writing so remarkably sustained that it is a subject for meditation rather than a mere reading...In the depths and surfaces of this extraordinary fable you will see your inner self eerily reflected again and again.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'*The Plains* has that peculiar singularity that can make literature great.' Ed Wright, *Australian*, Best Books of 2015

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