

**BOOK DETAILS**

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**AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Lindsay Tanner was the minister for finance and deregulation in the Rudd–Gillard governments, and held the seat of Melbourne for the Australian Labor Party from 1993 to 2010. Having retired from politics at the 2010 federal election, he is now a special adviser to Lazard Australia, a vice-chancellor's fellow and adjunct professor at Victoria University, and chairman of the Essendon Football Club. Mr Tanner is the author of several other books, including *Politics with Purpose* (2012) and *Sideshow* (2011). *Comeback* is the sequel to *Comfort Zone* (2016).

Behind the prosperous, genteel landscape of the inner city lies a very different world of hardship and insecurity — where a roof over your head is never guaranteed.

Jack van Duyn is a Melbourne taxi-driver in his mid-fifties, living alone in a dingy Brunswick flat. He's settled into a drab existence, with little money, few friends, and no prospects.

He's still recovering from weeks of turmoil triggered by his infatuation with beautiful Somali refugee Farhia, and the bitter conflict with drug dealers, spies, and thugs that ensued — as described in *Comfort Zone*.

However, Jack's return to normality is short-lived. He's about to be hurtled into a vicious power struggle involving crooked property developers, angry unionists, and a deranged stalker from his past. Before he knows it, his world is starting to unravel, and he's running for his life ...

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. How would you respond if you were facing the prospect of becoming homeless and lacked the resources and support systems to do much about it?
2. Should we feel sympathy for Phil, or see him as responsible for his own misfortunes?
3. Given Jack is lonely and frustrated, how do we explain his ambivalence towards Emily?
4. Has *Comeback* changed your view of taxi-drivers at all? In what way?
5. Should the Carlton tenants have fought the redevelopment proposal to the death or tried to negotiate a better deal?
6. Do you find the secondary characters — the union leader, the tenant workers, the left-wing councillor, the upper middle-class community activists — convincing?
7. Should Jack have written Emily off once he discovers what is going on?
8. Why does Jack get drawn into helping Phil, in spite of his aggressive behaviour?
9. Do you think the corruption behind the public housing redevelopment could happen in Melbourne?
10. Should Jack stick to driving taxis or try to reinvent himself?