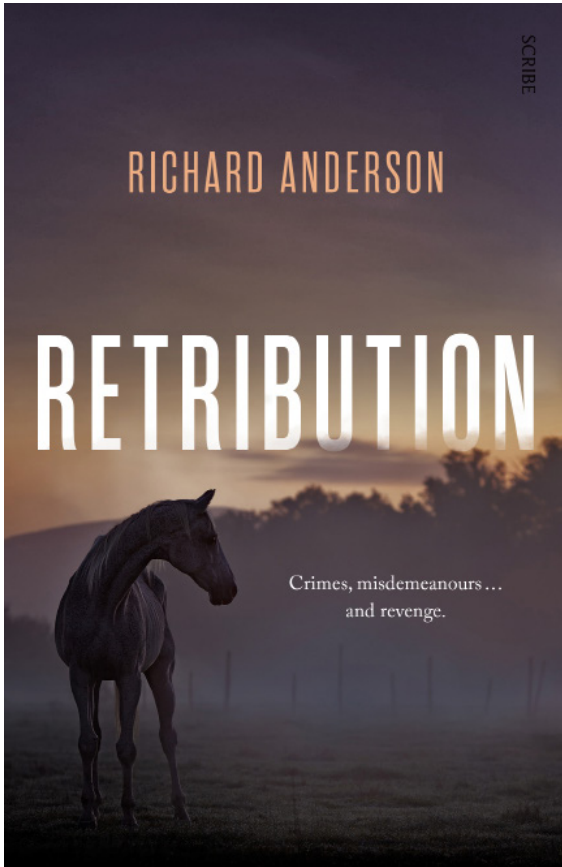


# Retribution

RICHARD ANDERSON



## BOOK DETAILS

Format: Paperback

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## AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Richard Anderson is a second-generation farmer from northern New South Wales. He has been running a beef-cattle farm for twenty-five years, but has also worked as a miner and had a stint on the local council. Richard is the author of one previous novel, *The Good Teacher*. He lives with his wife, four dogs, and a new cat.

A rural-crime novel about finding out how to survive and surviving what you find.

In a small country town, an act of revenge causes five lives to collide. Early one Christmas morning, Graeme Sweetapple, a man down on his luck, is heading home with a truck full of stolen steers when he comes across an upended ute that has hit a tree. He is about to get involved with Luke, an environmental protestor who isn't what he seems; a washed-up local politician, Caroline Statham, who is searching for a sense of purpose, but whose businessman husband seems to be sliding into corruption; and Carson, who is wild, bound to no one, and determined to escape her circumstances.

Into their midst comes Retribution, a legendary horse worth a fortune. Her disappearance triggers a cycle of violence and retaliation that threatens the whole community. As tensions build, they must answer one question: is true retribution ever possible — or even desirable?

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What do the characters have in common?
2. Are any of the characters justified in their desire for revenge?
3. In a novel, is the death of an animal worse than the death of a human? If so, why? Many popular novels have the murder and brutalisation of people (often women) as their centre point. Do we feel hurting an animal is real and hurting a human is somehow unreal; too far removed from us?
4. What does Caroline want from Sweetapple? What is her relationship to Missy/Retribution?
5. What does the mare Retribution represent? And the pale horse at the end?
6. Who extracts retribution?
7. Does Carson learn and grow or is she stuck?
8. Is the ending a just one or a justification for revenge?