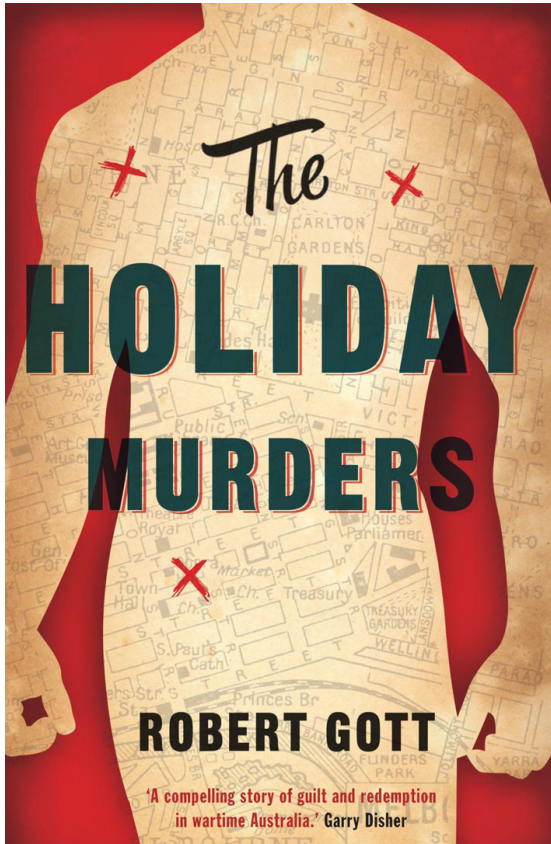


# The Holiday Murders

ROBERT GOTT



## BOOK DETAILS

Format: Paperback

ISBN: 9781922070258

RRP: \$29.99



## AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Robert Gott has published many books for children and is the creator of the newspaper cartoon *The Adventures of Naked Man*. He's written a trilogy of crime-caper novels; *Good Murder*, *A Thing of Blood*, and *Amongst the Dead*, and his sequel to *The Holiday Murders* was released in 2015 called *The Port Fairy Murders*.

On Christmas Eve, 1943, the newly formed but undermanned Homicide division of the Melbourne police force is called to investigate the vicious double murder of a father and son. When Military Intelligence becomes involved, Homicide's Inspector Titus Lambert must unravel the personal from the political.

If only the killings had stopped at two. The police are desperate to come to grips with an extraordinary and disquieting upsurge of violence. For Constable Helen Lord, it is an opportunity to make her mark in a male-dominated world where she is patronised as a novelty. For Detective Joe Sable, the investigation forces a reassessment of his indifference to his Jewish heritage. Racing against the clock, the police uncover simmering tensions among secretive local Nazi sympathisers as a psychopathic fascist usurper makes his move.

*The Holiday Murders* explores a little-known and sometimes violent corner of Australian history, and finds oddly modern echoes in its paranoia, xenophobia, and ugly fervour.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. The novel is set in 1943. Does this feel like an alien world, or are its political and social tensions strangely familiar?
2. Titus and Maude Lambert are happily married. This is unusual within the crime genre. What effect does this secure marriage have on the narrative?
3. Australia First was a real organisation. *The Publicist* was a real magazine. All the material reprinted from *The Publicist* is real. How does this affect your reading of the novel?
4. What is the effect of the violence in the novel?

## REVIEWS

‘[M]ore than just a pulsating procedural thriller, Gott’s novel presents an acute socio-political rendering of a nation haunted by an underworld of fascism and the bloodshed of war ... a fascinating cautionary tale that explores the wonderful bond between crime fiction and the shadows lurking in our collective past.’

**SCOTT MACLEOD, AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW**

‘*The Holiday Murders* is a new crime novel from Robert Gott, author of the “William Power” crime novels as well as many children’s books. I hope it will be the first of many ... Drawing on the political and social milieu of the time and name-checking some of Melbourne’s landmark streets and hotels, Gott’s story rings true — as well as being a real page-turner. It’s also a little grisly in parts. Fans of Kerry Greenwood, Sulari Gentill and any readers who like a little history with their crime will love *The Holiday Murders*.’ **PIP NEWLING, AUSTRALIAN BOOKSELLER AND PUBLISHER**

‘Aficionados of all that’s hard-boiled will thrill to the frisson.’ **AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW**

5. ‘Good tailoring was fundamental to the exercise of power...’ Ptolemy Jones believes this. It seems like a trivial observation. Is it?
6. Mitchell Magill and his circle, and Ptolemy Jones and his circle share a political philosophy – National Socialism. Each expresses it differently. Are they equally dangerous?
7. Joe Sable begins as a naïve presence but everything shifts as the novel progresses. Is he stronger at the end, or simply damaged?
8. Helen Lord is not naïve, but do the events of the novel strengthen or weaken her sense of herself?
9. This is not a whodunit. It’s more of a ‘who’s next’. Does this help or hinder our sense of menace in the book?
10. 1943 isn’t that long ago, and in some ways is a familiar world. Were there elements of this world that took you by surprise?



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