

MEDIA RELEASE

SPINIFEX & SUNFLOWERS

by AVAN JUDD STALLARD

ABOUT THE BOOK

Nick Harris. Son of a grifter and bullshitter, a man who killed himself cutting timber on a portable sawmill, and who bequeathed Nick his anger and volatility. For years Nick has been drifting, until the day he finds himself surrounded by red dirt and razor wire, staring at men inside a detention centre. He's no crusader and he hasn't come to make friends. He's just a man in debt who needs a job.

Time passes slowly behind the wire, and the longer Nick stays, the more normal the detainees seem, and the crazier everything around them: the desert that is its own prison, the staff filled with resentment and disdain and the system that represents both salvation and damnation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Avan Judd Stallard was born and raised in the south-west of Western Australia. He holds a PhD at the University of Queensland where he taught Australian history, and won the Dean's Award for Excellence. Avan is the author of the history book *Antipodes: In Search of the Southern Continent*. He currently lives with his wife in the north of Spain.

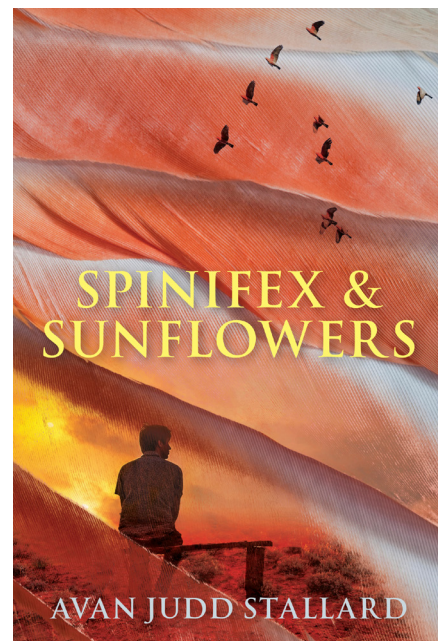


NOTES

- The novel is a realistic window into the hidden world of immigration detention centres, drawn from the experience of a former guard. It is one man's vision, standing behind the wire with the people locked inside our desert prisons, and looking out at the people who put them there.
- Avan Judd Stallard worked for nearly three months, six days every week, twelve hours a day, at the Curtin Immigration Detention Centre in Western Australia. There he was paid to help execute the national strategy to deter future asylum seekers by detaining those who have already made the voyage.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

'Well written, confronting, passionate and often graphic, this novel deserves to be read by any Australian with a conscience. [Four stars]' *Books+Publishing*



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