

## OLD BOY GEORGIA TREE

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Her whole life, Georgia's father has told her she will be the one to write his story. It's a story in which living is just a game of chance: why did Grant Tree survive when others didn't? Why did he find love and happiness, and a grown daughter to spill his story to so that she can record the whole beautiful, unlikely mess of it?

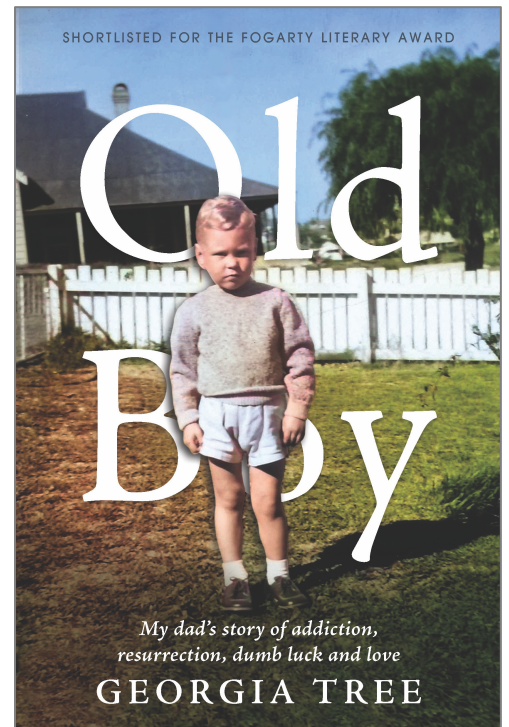
This is the memoir of an ordinary young man with a difficult childhood who gets to make himself anew, and it is told with love through a daughter's eyes. It is also the story of another, notorious Western Australian, for whom the cards fell out so differently.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Georgia Tree** was born in Subiaco, Western Australia, in 1992. She's since spent most of her life by the ocean—first Dampier in the Pilbara, and later Warnbro in the deep south outer suburbs of Perth. Georgia studied Creative Writing at Curtin University, graduating with Honours in 2013, and in 2020 she completed a Master of International Relations and National Security. Georgia now works as a Senior Adviser in the Albanese Labor Government and lives in Mount Lawley in Boorloo (Perth).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is this memoir called *Old Boy*?
2. This is Grant Tree's story, but what is the effect of having his daughter's words frame the work?
3. What difference does it make to Grant's story that the story of Charlie appears at intervals within it?
4. Why do you think one of them survives when the other does not?
5. Why do you think Georgia Tree has chosen to include author notes in this book?
6. What can we extrapolate about Perth from the 1960s–1980s from the particular details of Grant's story?
7. On page 30, Grant's mother asks him, 'What is wrong with you?' What is 'wrong' with Grant, and why?
8. What does Grant mean when he describes his friend Peter as having a 'face like a question mark' (p.97)?
9. What does the author mean when she writes 'life is grotesque' (p.11)?
10. Why do you think that Charlie does what he does? How would you describe his relationship with Susie?
11. On page 111, Susie called Grant 'our winner'. What do you think this couple means to Grant?
12. What do you make of Grant's reaction when he hears the news about Charlie?
13. Why do you think that each of Grant's chapters is titled with a street name or location?
14. Do you think it is still possible for people to fall through the cracks in the way Grant did? What saves him?
15. In the final chapter, 'Fast Forward', the author describes what her father means to her. What qualities do you think she has inherited from him?



## INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR

***How long did you talk to your dad for before you knew how you were going to write his story? What was this process like?***

Towards the end of 2019 as I wrapped up my Masters I had a chat with Dad about the book, first interview was Jan so he had a few months to think about it. The process for recording was pretty loose, I had a few prompts but just let his memory lead.

***What did you learn in the course of writing this book?***

A lot about memory, how different people will have vastly different perceptions of the same event. That everyone has main character syndrome!

***What made you decide to include Charlie's story too?***

I thought it was a fascinating piece of Perth history that hadn't really been told in an easily digestible format.

***What's next for Georgia Tree?***

Bogan Agatha Christie style murder mystery set in a Minister's office.



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