

Old Boy

by **GEORGIA TREE**

A daughter's telling of her father's tale of addiction, resurrection, dumb luck and love.

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? Told in parallel to Grant's story is the life of his friend and dealer Brian Geoffrey Chambers, known in the book as Charlie, who was ultimately executed in Malaysia for drug smuggling.

Narrated in vivid, conversational detail as transcribed by Grant's daughter from hours of recorded interviews and underlaid with research into life in Perth and the north-west from the 1930s to 1988, this memoir details the rites of passage of young manhood, ordinariness, dysfunction and what is like to live on the edges of other more ordinary suburban working class Australians.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

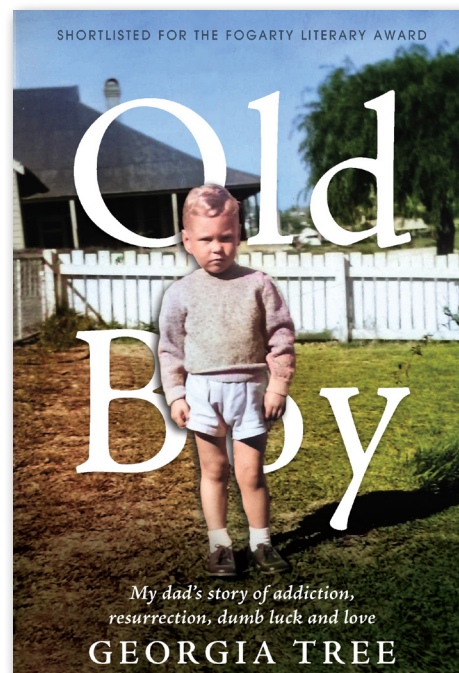
Georgia Tree was born in Subiaco, Western Australia in 1992. She's since spent most of her life by the ocean – first Dampier in the Pilbara, and later Warnbro in outer suburban Perth. Georgia studied Creative Writing at Curtin University, graduating with Honours in 2013, and in 2020 she completed a Master of International Relations and National Security.

Georgia now works as a Senior Adviser in the Albanese Labor Government and lives in Perth, WA.



NOTES

- *Old Boy* was shortlisted for the 2021 Fogarty Literary Award and is Georgia's debut book.
- This book explores the broader social history of Perth in the post-Vietnam War period, the Western Australian–Southeast Asian heroin trade, Fremantle Prison in operation, and addiction and mental illness at a time when stigma, and law and order completely overrode any notion of a health response.
- Tree also examines the first mining boom and the subsequent migration of city workers to the Pilbara, and how Perth's metamorphosis changed it into the city we know today.



Pub. Date	4 July 2023
ISBN	9781760991883
eISBN	9781760991890
RRP	\$29.99 AU \$37.00 NZ \$19.95 US
Genre	Narrative non-fiction
Format	PB, B+
Extent	240 pp



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