\textit{Power Without Glory} is a 1950 novel written by Australian writer Frank Hardy. It was later adapted into a mini-series by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (1976).

\section*{PUBLICATION}

The work was originally self-published, with illustrations by Hardy’s friend and fellow Communist “Amb” Dyson, with the rubric “a novel in three parts by Frank J. Hardy, Ross Franklyn”. “Ross Franklyn” was the pseudonym Hardy had always used prior to \textit{Power Without Glory}. This combination of real name and pen name was also used in Hardy’s 1961 book \textit{The Hard Way} which describes the difficulties “Ross Franklyn” had in having the book published, and the problems Frank Hardy faced in answering the criminal libel charge against him arising from the publication.\footnote{1}

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The novel is a fictionalised version of the life of Melbourne businessman and Australian Labor Party power-broker, John Wren. It is largely set in the fictitious Melbourne suburb of Carringbush, which is based on the actual suburbs of Abbotsford and Collingwood. In the novel, West is involved in criminal activities and political machinations, particularly related to gambling.

The book includes many characters based on other important social and political figures in Victoria and Australia, including:

- Victorian Premier Sir Thomas Bent;
- Prime Minister James Scullin;
- Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne Daniel Mannix (the character "Archbishop Malone");
- Police commissioner Thomas O'Callaghan;
- Detective David O'Donnell;
- Socialist ALP politician and one-time deputy leader Frank Anstey (the character "Frank Ashton");
- Ex-politician and notorious lawyer David Gausson (the character "Davey Garside");
- Returned soldier and racing official Gilbert Dyett (the character "Godfrey Dwyer");
- Boxer Les Darcy;
- Gangster Squizzy Taylor (the character "Snoopy Tanner"); and
- Queensland Premier, and later federal Treasurer, Ted Theodore.

A fuller list of characters and locations is provided in the following section "Characters and real-life equivalents".

The barely-disguised inspiration for the "West" character is made clear by the fact that West, like Wren, has a brother called "Arthur" who spent time in jail for aiding and abetting a crime of rape. (Wren's other brother, Joseph, also appears in the novel.) Wren's wife Ellen (née Mahon) appears as "Nellie", and there is mention in the novel of his children: his violinist daughter Margaret, his son John Jr., and another daughter, who becomes a Communist, resembles Wren's radical daughter Mary, who was an active member of the Movement Against War and Fascism.

The novel is partly set during World War I, and the debate about conscription is a major issue in the novel. John West is a fierce patriot who supports conscription, and his sometimes fiery arguments with the Irish-Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, who opposes conscription on the grounds that to send men to aid England was contrary to his, and Ireland's, historical enmity with that country.

**CHARACTERS AND REAL-LIFE EQUIVALENTS**

- **ASHTON, Frank** — Frank Anstey, Labor politician and social propagandist
- **BLACKWELL, Maurice** — Maurice Blackburn, State Labor MP for Essendon, Fitzroy & Clifton Hill. Federal Labor M.P. for Bourke
- **BLAIRE — (Sir) Thomas Blamey, army general and Victorian Police Commissioner 1925-1936**
- **BOND, Thomas — (Sir) Thomas Bent, 32nd Premier of Victoria 1904-1909**
- **BRADLEY, Richard — Richard Buckley, notorious criminal**
- **BRADY, William — Bill Barry, Victorian Labor M.P. for Carlton, minister in various C' vain Governments**
- **CALLINAN, Police Commissioner — Thomas O'Callaghan, Police Commissioner 1902–1913**
- **CAMERON — Campbell, Cycling Promoter Exhibition**
- **CARR, John — John Cain, leader of Victorian ALP. Premier on three occasions**
- **CONN (Archbishop) — Thomas Carr, Catholic archbishop of Melbourne preceding Daniel Mannix**
- **CORY, Pat — Pat Cody of Australian Distilleries**
- **CRÉGAN, J. — Jack Cremean, Federal M.P. for Hoddle**
- **CUTTING, Slasher — Snowy Cutmore, gunman and thief**
- **DARBY, Lou — Les Darcy**
- **DAVISON, Affie — (Sir) Albert Dunstan, conservative Victorian Premier 1935-1943**
- **DEVLIN, Dr. — Sir Hugh Devine, surgeon**
- **DEVLIN, Godfrey — (Sir) Gilbert Dyett, long-time President of the R.S.L.**
- **EVANS, Bill — Bill Egan, bricklayer**
- **GARSIDE, David — David Gausson, prominent criminal solicitor**
- **GIBBON, Sir S. — (Sir) Samuel Gillott, Chief Secretary in the Bent Cabinet**
- **HORAN, Ned — Ned Hogan, twice Labor Premier of Victoria**
- **JOHNSONS, Rev. — Rev. William Judkins, prominent anti-vice crusader and preacher**
- **JOLLY, Bob — Bob Solly, Labor M.P. for Carlton in Victorian Parliament for many years**
- **KELLEHER, Paddy — Pat Kennelly, M.L.C. for Melbourne West; Federal Secretary, A.L.P.**
- **KIELY, Michael — Stan Keon, Victorian Member for Richmond, later Federal M.P. for Yarra**
- **LAMB, Richard — Dick Lean, manager of Melbourne Stadium**
- **LAMBERT, Percy — Percy Laidler, bookshop owner & theatrical supplier, socialist organiser and orator**
- **LAMMENCE, Frank — Frank Laurence, former secretary of John Wren**
- **LEVY, Ben — Ben Nathan, co-founder of Maples furniture and music store chain**
Hardy was tried for criminal libel in 1951 because of the depiction in the novel of "West's" wife having an affair but he was acquitted on the grounds that the work was, as he said, a mixture of fact and fiction. It was the last prosecution for criminal (as opposed to civil) libel in Victoria.

The case attracted enormous publicity, coinciding as it did with the anti-Communist referendum and served mainly to give the novel and the negative portrayal of Wren greater prominence. Hardy later detailed his experiences during the case in his book The Hard Way.

Hardy's inclusion of Ellen's ("Nellie's") affair with bricklayer Bill Egan, who worked on the Wren mansion, was based on Wren's own belief that his daughter Angela was the illegitimate product of that affair. Just prior to the book's first (underground) publication, Hardy was wracked with uncertainty as to whether it was ethical to include the episode: he was worried about the book's impact on the "living innocents". He was eventually convinced to include it by the former Communist Party leader JB Miles and, it seems, Angela herself, who is portrayed in the book as "Xavier". (Hardy was originally going to call the character "Annette" but changed the baby's sex to provide another layer of protection for Angela.) The real-life Angela committed suicide in 1956 and although Hardy's latest biographer Jenny Hocking (professor) was unable to find concrete evidence for Angela's assistance, she believes that it was provided.

**CULTURAL INFLUENCE**

In 1976, the novel was made into a 26 episode ABC-TV series starring Martin Vaughan as West. While "Nellie's" affair with the brickie is depicted, the affair does not produce a child. The series won numerous Logie, Penguin and Sammy Awards. Football commentator Rex Hunt traditionally refers to Collingwood as "the Carringbush"
FURTHER READING

Logie Award for Most Popular Drama Program

- 77 Sunset Strip (1960)
- Stormy Petrel (1961)
- Consider Your Verdict (1962)
- The One Day of the Year (1963)
- Country and Western Hour (1964)
- Country and Western Hour (1965)
- Homicide (1966)
- Homicide (1967)
- Homicide (1968)
- Homicide (1969)
- Division 4 (1970)
- Homicide (1971)
- Division 4 (1972)
- Homicide (1973)
- Number 96 (1974)
- Number 96 (1975)
- Number 96 (1976)
- Power Without Glory (1977)
- The Sullivans (1978)
- The Sullivans (1979)
- The Sullivans (1980)
- Prisoner (1981)
- Prisoner (1982)
- Sons and Daughters (1983)
- A Country Practice (1985)
- A Country Practice (1986)
- Neighbours (1987)
- Neighbours (1988)
- Neighbours (1989)
- N/A (1990)
- Home and Away (1991)
- E Street (1992)
- Home and Away (1993)
- Home and Away (1994)
- Home and Away (1995)
- Home and Away (1996)
- Blue Heelers (1997)
Gough Whitlam, Bob Hawke, Queensland, Liberal Party of Australia, National Party of Australia

The Bill, McLeod's Daughters, Canada, United Kingdom, Victoria (Australia)

The Bill, McLeod's Daughters, Canada, United Kingdom, Victoria (Australia)

Men At Work, Fitzroy, Victoria, Australian Labor Party, Brighton, Victoria, Richmond, Victoria

Communism, Soviet Union, Espionage, Australian Labor Party, University of Melbourne

Australia, Hartlepool, Prisoner (TV series), Tim Burstall, End Play

LEILA HAYES

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE
Power Without Glory is a 1950 historical novel written by Communist Australian writer Frank Hardy. At time of publication, court orders to suppress publication while Hardy was tried for criminal libel mirrored much larger scale McCarthyist censorship and anti-communist trials in USA. Ultimately Hardy was cleared and publication allowed. The book was later adapted into a mini-series by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (1976), which at the time, obtained great success. Hardy wrote several books.