

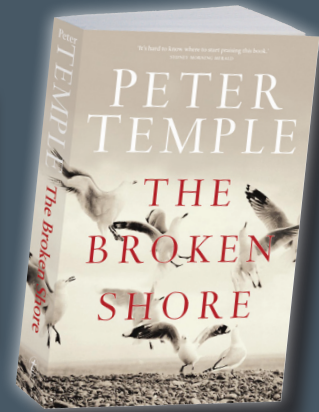
## The Broken Shore

Peter Temple

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Fiction B Paperback



### Praise for *The Broken Shore*

'Every word in *The Broken Shore* contains meaning. It's all killer, no filler. Especially the dialogue. It's deliciously brutal and spare, full of unambiguous violence, prejudice and hatred one moment, and cavernous instances of insight and revelation the next.' *Courier-Mail*

'If you only read one crime novel this year, read *The Broken Shore*...In the end, it's all about family: the one you're born with and the one you make. But most of all it's about the writing, and in that regard *The Broken Shore* might just be a great Australian novel, irrespective of genre. Read it for what Temple does with words.' *Age*

'It's hard to know where to start praising this book. Plot, style, setting and characters are all startlingly good, and even lovers of crime fiction will recognise that Temple has taken his writing beyond the usual boundaries of that admirable genre...*The Broken Shore* is one of those watershed books that makes you rethink your ideas about reading.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'Might well be the best crime novel published in this country.' *Australian*

### About Peter Temple

Peter Temple is the author of eight crime novels, five of which have won the Ned Kelly Award, Australia's major prize for crime fiction. He is also a winner of the Colin Roderick Award for Australian writing and has worked as a journalist and editor for newspapers and magazines in several countries. Born in South Africa, he now lives in Victoria, Australia.

*The Broken Shore* was awarded the Crime Writers' Association Duncan Lawrie Dagger 2007, ABIA General Fiction Book of the Year 2006, Ned Kelly Award Best Crime Novel 2006, The Colin Roderick Award and H.T.Priestley Medal 2006 and was longlisted for the 2006 Miles Franklin Award

### A reader's introduction to *The Broken Shore*

Hailed as the finest crime writer in Australia, award winner Peter Temple is now being recognized worldwide as a master of the genre. With *The Broken Shore*, he delivers his most powerful novel yet—a chilling tale of murder in a community where tensions over race, class, and politics have reached boiling point.

Shaken by a recent scrape with death, his physical and emotional scars still raw, detective Joe Cashin is posted away from the Homicide Squad to the quiet Victorian town where he grew up. But his hometown offers little in the way of a tranquil recovery; Cashin is soon embroiled in a highly publicised murder investigation. Prominent local businessman Charles Bourgoyne was brutally attacked in his own home, and three Aboriginal boys have become the lead suspects. When a shootout erupts between them and Cashin's team, the truth itself becomes a moving target, and the evidence raises more questions than it answers. As the secrets of the Bourgoyne family begin to unfold, Cashin unravels a web of deceit while confronting his own haunted past. Racing to a riveting conclusion, *The Broken Shore* will transfix you at every turn.

### Questions for discussion

1. Why does Joe Cashin decide to take a chance on Dave Rebb in the initial chapters? Is Joe a better judge of character than Mrs. Haig, or was he simply taking a gamble?
2. How are Cashin and Michael affected by the Cashin family legacy? In what way does Cashin's understanding of his father and of Tommy shift throughout the novel?
3. What do you think happened on the night of the shootout? Would you have been more likely to trust Hopgood or Donny?

4. How has Cashin's community changed since his boyhood? What enabled Bobby Walshe and Helen Castleman to excel in careers that would previously have been closed to Aboriginals and women? How does Cashin view his connection to Bobby and Helen now that they are adults engaged in high-stakes circumstances?
5. Discuss the novel's title. How does the beautiful but dangerous segment of coastline called the Broken Shore serve as an appropriate backdrop for the Bourgoyne murder investigation? What has been broken at the Kettle and the Dangar Steps? Whose broken lives are mended in the aftermath?
6. How were you affected by the structure of the novel, featuring brief chapters comprising rapid-fire dialogue and almost cinematic visuals? What made *The Broken Shore* different from other thrillers you have read?
7. The novel features a glossary of Australian slang, with many of the entries describing various types of people. How does English-language slang vary around the globe, and what does a population's slang indicate? What commonalities exist between the dialogue of Australian and, say, crime novels?
8. How did race and class influence the way the case was handled? Without Cashin's intervention, would the truth have likely been discovered? In what parts of the world do race and class play the greatest role in how justice is served? How are neighborhoods like the Daunt born?
9. Who was your prime suspect? Were you more swayed by evidence or instinct? Whom did you trust the least?
10. What does Jamie's story indicate about the nature of abuse? Why is evil sometimes allowed to flourish? What allowed this particular evil to affect multiple generations?
11. Why was Jamie's sister hesitant to reveal the truth? What realities was she trying to perpetuate? What would you have done in her situation?
12. In the end, Erica decides not to sell the camp to Fyfe, putting an end to the resort project. What did this clash between the old guard and new developers indicate about views of the ideal life in this region? How is progress truly defined, in housing, law enforcement, and other aspects of community?
13. How did you interpret the novel's closing scene? What do you predict Tracy will find after she follows through on Cashin's research request regarding the summer of 1988?
14. Just as literature and opera helped Cashin recover from the incident with Raimond Sarris, what emotional repairs are accomplished through the repair work on Tommy Cashin's house?