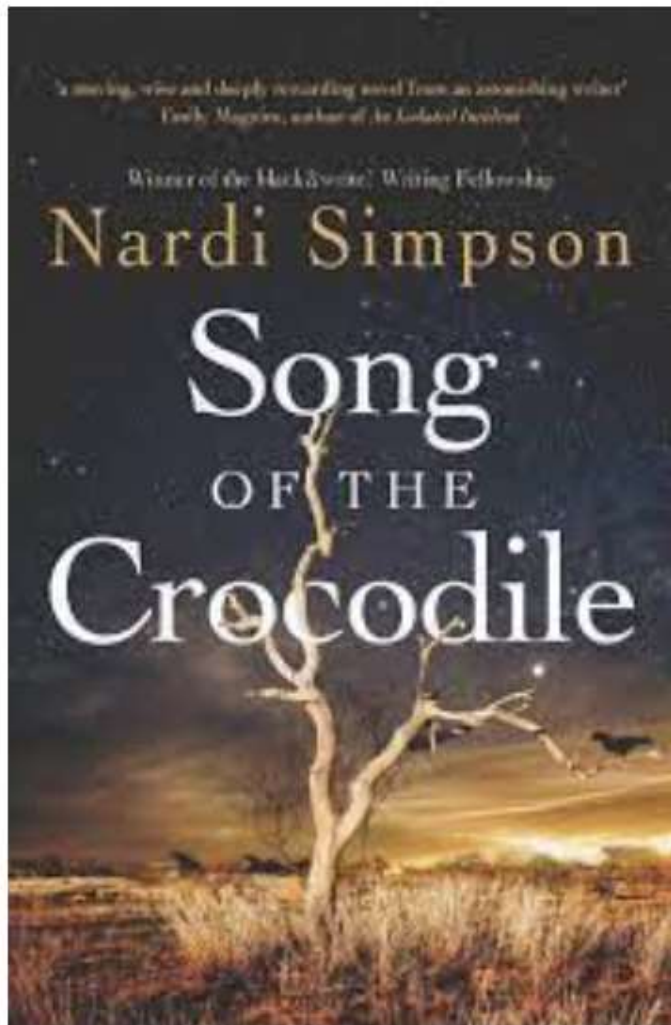


September 2021



Nardi Simpson's debut novel made quite a splash when it was published in September 2020, long listed, short listed or winning a range of national awards. I was also keen to read a debut book by an indigenous woman and member of the musical duo The Stiff Gins – a gutsy name for two accomplished musicians who combine lovely harmonies with fresh songwriting, sensitive lyrics and gentle humor.

So we kicked off our deadly discussion with champagne (thanks Lynda!) while listening to tracks from Wind and Water, the latest album by the Stiff Gins.

It is hard to say it better than one of our members, who wrote:

The book explores 'lived and real' themes for Aboriginal people of colonization, grief, inter-generational trauma, Aboriginal spirituality, racism, strong women, resilience and resistance, also dispelling the myths that black fellas don't work hard. At times I was bored with the story-line but I suppose that reflects my white

fella impatience for a faster pace of the 'everyday'. The degree of loss and grief experienced is real, having witnessed this when working in Aboriginal health. And clients did speak about talking to or being visited by the Ancestors. I can imagine Nardi Simpson will only get better. And like "The Yield" (which I thought was a better crafted novel), this is a cultural gift. 3.5 from me (Sandy).

**Ratings::** Margy, Viv and Janet 2.5, Annie and Jenny 3, Lynda, Dianne Pauline Nicola and Sandy 3.5

Next month we get together 11/10 at 6:30pm to discuss *Amnesty* by Aravind Adiga, hope to see you there and Happy Reading!

# Other Books We Read

## September 2021

Danger Music by Eddie Ayres 3.5

The Spare Room by Helen Garner 4.5

Boy Lost by Kristina Olsen 4

Amy and Isabelle by Elizabeth Strout, 2 x 3.5

The cost of living by Deborah Levy, 3.5

Interior Chinatown by Charles Yu, 4

Lean, Fall, Stand by Jon McGregor, 4

Piranesi by Susanna Clarke, 4.5

Us Against You by Fredrik Backman, 2.5

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, 4.5

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee, 1.5

A Movable Feast by Ernest Hemingway, 4

Real Estate by Deborah Levy, 4

The Sunken Road by Gary Disher, 3.5

Leave the World Behind by Rumann Alam, 3

Another Country by James Baldwin, 4

A Passage North by Anuk Arudpragasam, 3.5

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell, 4

The Labyrinth by Amanda Lohrey, 4

If this is a man by Primo Levi, 4

The Truce by Primo Levi, 4

Priestdaddy by Patricia Lockwood, 4

The Alphabet of Birds by SJ Naude, 3.5

The Death of Francis Bacon by Max Porter, 3

Still Life by Sarah Winman, 3

A room with a view by E.M. Forster, 3

The Warden by Anthony Trollope, 3

The Consolations of Philosophy by Alain de Botton, 3.5

Midwinter Murders by Agatha Christie, 3.5

The Dickens Boy by Thomas Keneally, 3

Toxic by Richard Flanagan, 4

Ghost Empire by Richard Fidler, 4

Gould's Book of Fish by Richard Flanagan, 4

The Evening and the Morning by Ken Follett, 3.5

A Column of Fire by Ken Follett, 3.5

Seed to Dust by Marc Hamer, 4

A Time to Keep Silence by Patrick Leigh Fermor., 4.5