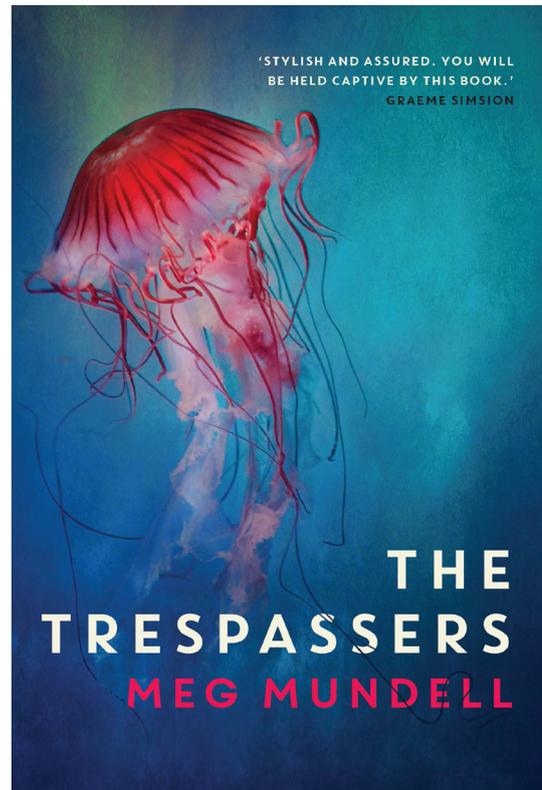


**A thought-provoking mystery set on an ill-fated migrant ship heading to Australia in a disturbing near future.**

A shipload of migrant workers flees the pandemic-stricken UK, seeking a fresh start in Australia. For nine-year-old Cleary the journey promises adventure, for former nurse Billie it's a chance to put a shameful mistake behind her, while struggling schoolteacher Tom hopes for a brighter future. But when a crew member is murdered and people start falling gravely ill, the *Steadfast* descends into chaos. Trapped on the ship, the trio must join forces to survive the journey and its aftermath.

*The Trespassers* is a beguiling novel that explores the consequences of greed, the experiences of migration and exile, and the way strangers can become the ones we hold dear.

**BOOK DETAILS**

C-format paperback  
978 0 7022 6255 5  
\$29.95

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 Q U E S T I O N S
 

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1. *The Trespassers* is set mostly at sea. How does this setting shape the mood of the book and the interactions between characters?
2. While *The Trespassers* is a work of fiction, it references both historical events and contemporary issues. What real-world situations and incidents does it echo? How close are these fictionalised scenarios to real-life events?
3. What hints are there about how bad things are back in the UK at the time the *Steadfast* sets sail?
4. Should Billie have left Scotland? Would you have done so in her situation?
5. What would Cleary have done if Billie hadn't been willing to take care of him? Did she have a choice?
6. How well did the captain deal with the crisis on his ship? What would you have done differently?
7. Cleary, Billie and Tom are all vulnerable in different ways, and at different times. In what ways are they each vulnerable? And what are the consequences?
8. Who is the most trustworthy character? Who is the bravest?

**MORE QUESTIONS OVER PAGE**

————— Q U E S T I O N S   C O N T . —————

9. Who changes the most over the course of the book? How and why do they change?
10. Who has the most power? Who has the least? How do the power relationships shift over the course of the story?
11. What are some of the superstitions that crop up in *The Trespassers*? What role do you think superstitions play in the characters' lives — and in our own lives?
12. What kind of future do you think Cleary will have? What about the other passengers and the crew?

'Stylish, assured writing that rewards close reading. Mundell is a fine observer, and her descriptions are insightful and fresh. You will be held captive by this book — the story never flags. In a genre that is becoming increasingly popular, Mundell's work stands out for its literary quality.'

Graeme Simson

'A compelling, tightly told novel, Meg Mundell's *The Trespassers* dissects the horrors of our commercially driven, punishment-focused migration system through three fine-grained human stories. Its precise language and flinty observations make this chilling story all too believable.'

Jane Rawson

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Meg Mundell is a New Zealand-born writer and academic based in Melbourne. Her first novel, *Black Glass*, was shortlisted for two Aurealis Awards, the Barbara Jefferies Award and the Norma K. Hemming Award. She is the author of the story collection *Things I Did For Money*, and her fiction, essays and journalism have been widely published. Meg is the editor of the forthcoming anthology *We Are Here: Stories of Home, Place and Belonging*, a collection of writing by people who have experienced homelessness.



**V I S I T**

<http://www.megmundell.com/>

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