

PURGATORY

ROBERT M. SMITH

IT IS THE EARLY 1980'S.

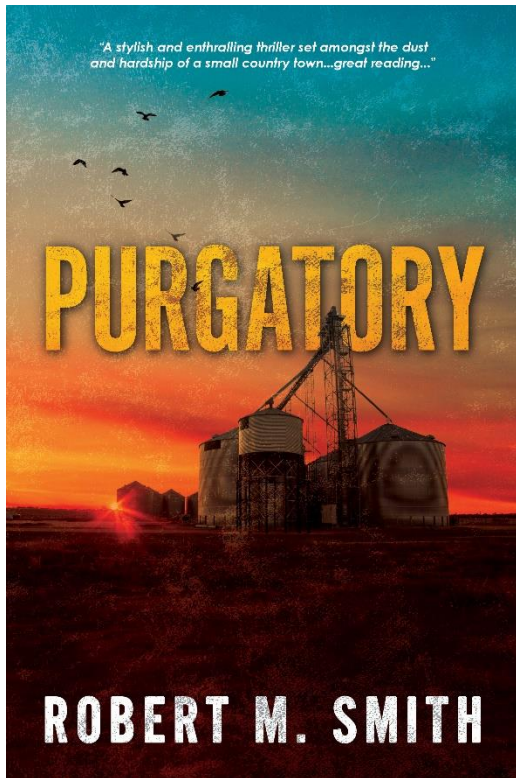
Greg Bowker is a young senior constable forcibly transferred to a one-officer station in a remote and dying Mallee town.

Welcomed by a brutal combination of heat, dust, isolation and primitive amenities, the new officer expects to waste years of his career in 'purgatory'.

He is greeted with warmth by the community but becomes increasingly worried by the behaviour of two delinquent teenagers, one of whose family history hides a secret he can't resist investigating.

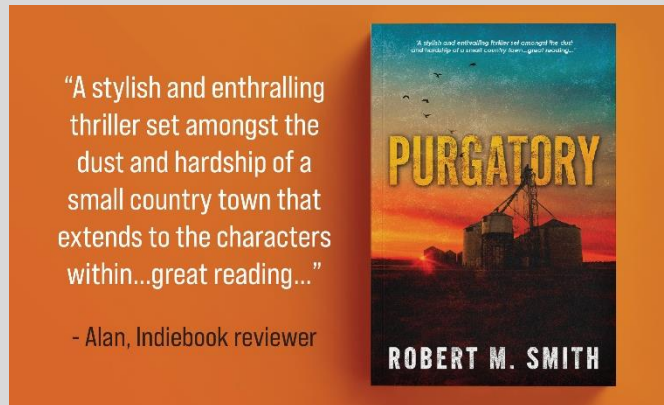
A subsequent disappearance and murder set a new challenge for the young officer and leads him down a path into an unspeakable world of darkness and deception.

Purgatory may well reside within the quiet town...



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Price available on our site



AUTHOR BIO

Raised on a farm in country Victoria, Robert Smith resides in Ballarat Victoria, with time to devote to his passion of writing. He has dabbled in commercial writing since the early 1990's, mainly as a playwright for one act plays and penning librettos for musical theatre. His work has been performed in all states of Australia as well as in New Zealand and the United Kingdom winning many awards at various drama festivals.

This is his first novel with others ready for print.

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PURGATORY

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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE 'PURGATORY'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

My time teaching in the Mallee brought a lifetime of experiences, many that seemed totally foreign to friends I told stories to. The call was always 'You should write a book about all that stuff.' I've never been a big fan of books that comprise numerous anecdotes welded together, top to tale. At the same time, I thought that some of the people I met in this remote town were so memorable that their stories merited being told. Likewise, the events that happened there, the sport, the races, the mouse plague, the fires on the side of the road in the middle of the night, they were all too good to be lost in the mists of time.

I saw no engaging story in relating my own experiences as a young teacher coming to town with his girlfriend on his arm, but a young policeman sent to the one-officer station certainly opened up more possibilities. Especially a young policeman who was sent to the town as a punishment. All I needed was an imaginary crime and the rest could be woven around it. A wayward girl disappearing from the school social and later found murdered was a scenario not impossible in the remote dust filled streets of a dying town.

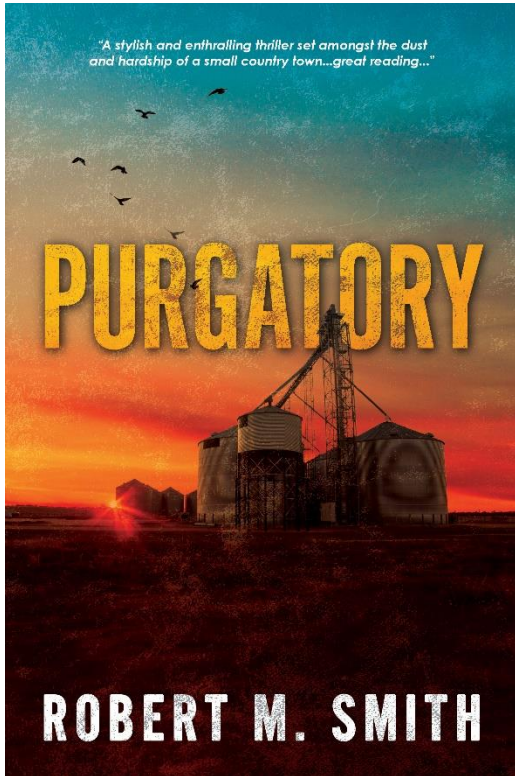
Once I had the main thread, I added back stories such as a suspicious death twenty years prior, and the complication of Bowker's girlfriend's ex-husband arriving in town with the homicide squad and reviving his abuse of his former wife.

HOW DO YOU CREATE OR MODEL YOUR CHARACTERS TO FIT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STORY AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE READERS?

Most are modelled on people I have met, although obviously not all in the same setting. As silly as it sounds, if I close my eyes, I can see what their actions would be within my narrative, and I literally write down the dialogue I hear them say in my head. Having good critics like my family who will occasionally say "He/she would say/do that" helps keep the characters on track.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE BOOKS?

Hopefully after 'Purgatory', readers will demand more of Officer Greg Bowker, and I will see my other novels on sale.



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