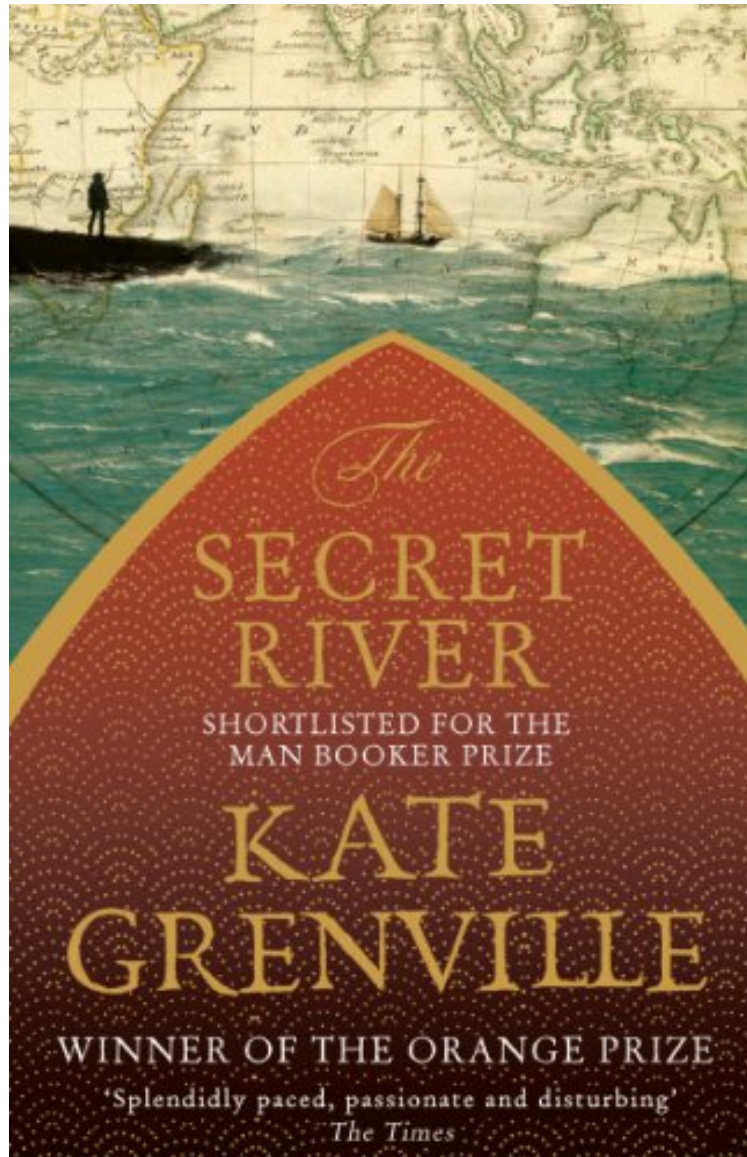


## The Secret River

Von Kate Grenville

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**Von Kate Grenville : The Secret River** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Secret River:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. toller AuswandererromanVon JOKODieser Roman beginnt im London des 19. Jahrhunderts. Erzahlt wird die Geschichte des jungen William Thornhill, der sich und spter seine Familie in schwierigen wirtschaftlichwen Verhlnissen dieser Zeit durchbringen mu .Und gerade diese schwierigen Zeiten bringen ihn dazu ,gegen das Gesetz zu verstoen.Er wird zum

Tode verurteilt, die Strafe wird aber auf Bitten seiner Frau in eine Deportation nach Australien umgewandelt. Dort lebt die Familie erst in Sydney und besiedelt später ein Stück Land, um es unter harten Bedingungen urbar zu machen. Dieses Buch ist für mich bisher der beste Australienroman, den ich gelesen habe, absolut nicht vergleichbar mit Shaw, Bickmore usw. Es wird auf sehr anschauliche und teilweise auch ansante Art und Weise erzählt, mit welchen Schwierigkeiten die Siedler zu kämpfen hatten. Aber auch die Arroganz der europäischen Siedler, vor allem gegenüber den Ureinwohnern, wird sehr drastisch beschrieben. Die zarten Versuche der Kontaktaufnahme von Seiten der Familie Thornhill, die dann durch brutale Gegenmaßnahmen der anderen Siedler im Keime erstickt werden und wiederum Gegengewalt erzeugen. Ich habe dieses Buch in 2 Tagen gelesen und hoffe noch mehr von dieser Autorin lesen zu können. Absolut lesenwert. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. ein toller Auswandererroman Von JOKO Dieser Roman beginnt im London des 19. Jahrhunderts. Erzählt wird die Geschichte des jungen William Thornhill, der sich und später seine Familie in schwierigen wirtschaftlichen Verhältnissen dieser Zeit durchbringen muss. Und gerade diese schwierigen Zeiten bringen ihn dazu, gegen das Gesetz zu verstößen. Er wird zum Tode verurteilt, die Strafe wird aber auf Bitten seiner Frau in eine Deportation nach Australien umgewandelt. Dort lebt die Familie erst in Sydney und besiedelt später ein Stück Land, um es unter harten Bedingungen urbar zu machen. Dieses Buch ist für mich bisher der beste Australienroman, den ich gelesen habe, absolut nicht vergleichbar mit Shaw, Bickmore usw. Es wird auf sehr anschauliche und teilweise auch ansante Art und Weise erzählt, mit welchen Schwierigkeiten die Siedler zu kämpfen hatten. 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This account of William Thornhill, transplanted Thames River waterman, depicts the kind of person capable of founding a nation. With excellent insight into a man's ambitions, feelings and needs, Grenville chains the reader's interest from the opening pages. Release comes only at the final page, and while satisfying, leaves one seriously disturbed by the cost of "nation building". Grenville's story isn't new. Thousands of people were "transported" to Australia after 1788, some escaping the gallows, while the rest relieved the intense pressure of British gaols. Thornhill was lucky in his wife Sal's appeal to escort William being successfully considered. There were few women in Port Jackson, and a wife brought stability. Grenville offers a fine touch of irony in William's being "assigned" to Sal as a "working convict". Again, as he had in London, William becomes a waterman - helping a boat owner ferry cargo up and down the Hawkesbury River. While conveying along the river, Thornhill spots a point of land amenable to homesteading. Thornhill and Sal begin scabbling a home in the bush, but immediately confront a major obstacle. The key issue in "founding" the nation of Australia is that it was already occupied. Although the British Privy Council would declare an entire continent "terra nullus" - unoccupied land - , the Aborigines, who had lived there for thousands of years, knew otherwise. Grenville grants Thornhill more humanity than most of his neighbours. Some of that is due to Thornhill's wife, Sal, but the former Londoner isn't a fixed mentality. He's adaptable and enterprising without avarice. Grenville's description of Thornhill's initial and later dealings with the Aborigines, and the many confrontations that occurred as other settlers moved in, forms the centrepiece of her narrative. Europeans were astonished at how easily the Aborigines moved in the forest. Silent, evasive, intimately knowledgeable about the land, the Aborigines were vulnerable only to bullets - and something else the British had available. While Thornhill wants peaceful coexistence, circumstances force other conditions. Others, of course, are less tolerating and the history of British settlers slaughtering those non-existent Aborigines might have started at Thornhill's Point. The British population, both free and under sentence, is growing. Farming and pasturage put pressures on land unable to support two vastly different lifestyles. The skirmishing diminishes Sal's relationship with her husband. Fearful for their children and herself, she threatens to take them to a settlement for safety. As pressures mount, the interaction of husband and wife grows quietly intense. Grenville portrays the conflicting loyalties - husband and wife, Thornhill and his land, the couple and their neighbours, humanity offsetting avarice - with clarity and feeling. You are kept spellbound as the story takes you to the resolution of this web of emotion. NOTE: "The Secret River" is the fictional tale of Kate Grenville's own transported London ancestor. Those wishing to understand how history influences a writer's choices are directed to Grenville's "Searching for The Secret River for the effort that went in to making this novel. [stephen a. haines - Ottawa, Canada]

Kurzbeschreibung London, 1807. William Thornhill, happily wedded to his childhood sweetheart Sal, is a waterman on the River Thames. Life is tough but bearable until William makes a mistake, a bad mistake for which he and his family

are made to pay dearly. His sentence: to be transported to New South Wales for the term of his natural life. The Thornhills arrive in this harsh and alien land that they cannot understand and which feels like a death sentence. But among the convicts there is a rumour that freedom can be bought, that 'unclaimed' land up the Hawkesbury offers an opportunity to start afresh, far away from the township of Sydney. When William takes a hundred acres for himself he is shocked to find Aboriginal people already living on the river. And other recent arrivals - Thomas Blackwood, Smasher Sullivan and Mrs Herring - are finding their own ways to respond to them. Soon Thornhill, a man neither better nor worse than most, has to make the most difficult decision of his life. From Publishers Weekly Grenville's Australian bestseller, which won the Orange Prize, is an eye-opening tale of the settlement of New South Wales by a population of exiled British criminals. Research into her own ancestry informs Grenville's work, the chronicle of fictional husband, father and petty thief William Thornhill and his path from poverty to prison, then freedom. Crime is a way of life for Thornhill growing up in the slums of London at the turn of the 19th century until he's caught stealing lumber. Luckily for him, a life sentence in the penal colony of New South Wales saves him from the gallows. With his wife, Sal, and a growing flock of children, Thornhill journeys to the colony and a convict's life of servitude. Gradually working his way through the system, Thornhill becomes a free man with his own claim to the savage land. But as he transforms himself into a trader on the river, Thornhill realizes that the British are not the first to make New South Wales their home. A delicate coexistence with the native population dissolves into violence, and here Grenville earns her praise, presenting the settler-aboriginal conflict with equanimity and understanding. Grenville's story illuminates a lesser-known part of history at least to American readers with sharp prose and a vivid frontier family. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Grenville, author of the Orange Award winner *The Idea of Perfection* (2002), tells a story rooted in her family's Australian past. In the early 1800s, William Thornhill is sentenced to death for stealing a shipload of expensive woods. Offered an alternative, he chooses transportation to New South Wales, Australia. Six sections describe Thornhill's progress from convict laborer to landowner, conveying the broader history of Australian colonization through the experience of one convict family. Grenville embodies in her characters the cruelties elicited by the clash of British and native Australian cultures and the savagery with which these differences played out. Plotting and characterization are so skillful that the book's tragic climax seems inevitable. Grenville writes lyrically, especially in her description of the Australian landscape, while her gift for the telling phrase--one that conveys a paragraph of description in a few words--enlivens an essentially dark narrative. In addition to lovers of Grenville's prose, this accomplished novel will appeal to fans of Thomas Keneally, Brooks Hansen, and Thomas Flanagan. Ellen Loughran Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved