

New Australian Author Book Release

# the journey

ROSS DANIELS

***THE JOURNEY ENCOUNTERS STRENGTH, RESILIENCE, JOY, HOPE AND HUMOUR IN THE VERY ORDINARINESS OF LIFE IN VILLAGES AND TOWNS.***

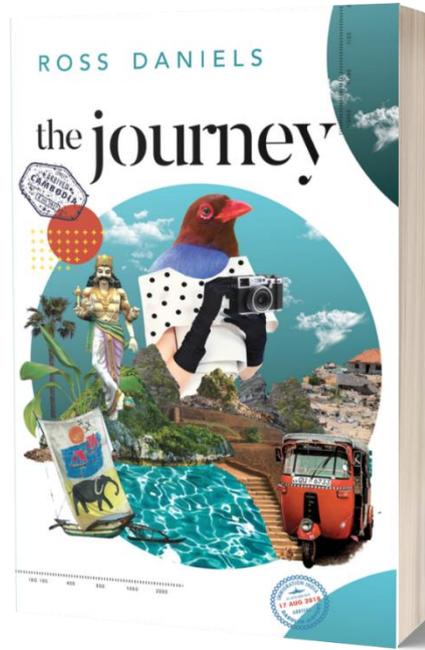
Drawing on a multiplicity of travel experiences across culturally diverse and historically rich landscapes, The Journey offers a critical, quirky, humorous reflection on the strangeness of the human species, the universal weirdness of ideas, the oddness of traditions and the plight of those who remain captured by beliefs well past their use by dates.

It tells of places visited and people seen, needing no special observation post, the traveller content just to watch the realities of passing lives from the windows of trains, buses, taxis, rickshaws, and the endless opportunities given at bus stands, cafes, hotels, laneways, walks, beaches and the host of circumstances that comprise the core of travel; the ordinary, the mundane preferred to the advertised spectacular.

It encounters devastating human tragedy caused by happenstance and unending grief born from the callousness of the unaccountably powerful.

Eccentricities are revealed without apology, without embarrassment.

***From the opening meeting with an old friend, to the perplexing observations of the privileged and those scraping a living, through the tragedy of loss, delusion of false hope, the searching for the missing and the deliberately hidden, The Journey wanders with humour and disgust, finishing with the fate of the mouse.***



Visit [shawlinepublishing.com.au](http://shawlinepublishing.com.au) for more details on the author, **Ross Daniels.**

**Price available on our site**

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# A Conversation with Ross

## **Why did you write ‘The Journey’? What were your inspirations?**

*Let me respond with a little story. Did you know that I nearly died at birth? You would most likely agree that, had I died at birth, the probability of my writing a novel and Shawline Publishing accepting it would have been significantly reduced, perhaps even extinguished. There is a compelling, inexorable logic about this. But your conclusion would be wrong. You see, had I died at birth, a man in a black dress with a white collar would have comforted my grieving parents with promises that their beautiful newborn had not died but had simply been taken away to a really nice place by a really loving being. The man in a black dress with a white collar would point to a big book, a couple of thousand years old, and tell of their newborn now occupying some extra-terrestrial palace. So, I put it to you that this palace may well have contained an office with a computer or heavenly typewriter allowing me to write a novel. Now, with respect, you might view this as the demented ravings of a mad man. But they are not. In fact, this amazing story of someone not dying but just passing, going somewhere else, happens every day, at just about in every funeral, in just about every culture. And this story is just one of those wonderful multiple, mysterious stories told over eons, in all cultures in all countries. You now have just the briefest glimpse into my novel.*

*In my travels, my multiple journeys, my experiences in a wide diversity of cultures I have witnessed people clinging to beliefs, traditions, customs that, in my view are long past their use by date. I have observed this nonsense. I have seen repressed women on beaches in black cladding as their ‘men masters’ parade in next to nothing. I watched peace preaching monks get annoyed with old ladies in temples. I sat near burning pyres by sacred rivers and places where bodies are left for carrions. I have talked with immaculately dressed officials who know where tortured bodies are buried but refuse to tell, so perpetuating the extraordinary suffering of those left behind. I know of catastrophic disasters, deliberate and by happenstance, that have produced utter despair and admirable resilience. Along with being perplexed, I am also amused and find humour in this pretentious but rather silly human species. I think this*

*human species is equally capable of joy, happiness, resilience as it is of barbarity, savagery, and callousness.*

*Additionally, and with modesty I hope, I just seem to have an odd way of viewing the world which allows me to find quirky angles and real humour in lots of ordinary common occurrences. To some extent I have a detached wonderment with my own species.*

*So, I wrote this book because I wanted to see if I could talk about this, using examples from my life both from where I abide and from where I have been, using people I sort of know but mostly constructed as amalgams from multiple interactions and situations which bring joy, sadness, despair and resilience.*

## **Where did you get your information or ideas for ‘The Journey’?**

*Probably initially from some formal philosophical and theological studies but certainly far more from life experiences and human rights, social justice, cross-cultural living, opportunities for travel in a wide variety of countries and a persistent growing interest in the ideas and beliefs that have punctuated human history. University studies helped. There is no one set point but rather an evolution of experiences and basically continued wonderment about the human species with its extraordinary capacity to just make up myth and magic and persuade everybody else that it is actually real.*

## **What are your plans for your future book/s?**

*I am unsure at this stage but have a couple of ideas for another fiction novel which may be a bit more focused on an issue omitted from my current novel. I have been mulling this idea for some time as well. But it remains in embryonic state at this time.*

## **Do you want each book to stand on its own, or are you trying to build a body of work with connections between each book?**

*Having only written one fiction novel I am thinking about a second, but it would not be similar to the one that I have written. It might be stylistically similar and hopefully contain humour and quiriness, but the subject matter would be different.*

