

1936

BRUCE RYAN

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Germany gained the rite to conduct the 1936 Olympics, though many countries were uneasy about giving the games to the country they had seen plunge the world into war. Several nations threatened boycotts, not only because of the Great War but the more recent persecution of the Roma and Sinti people and the new doctrine of racial purity.

Robert O'Calahan's selection as an Australian Olympic Team doctor leads his life to unexpected change as he is drawn into long hidden family secrets to the Roma and Sinti coalition in Australia of which he had no knowledge. Robert and a number of operatives, strive to contact German "Gypsies" and other dissidents to gain any proof of the atrocities committed by the Germans during the last decades but are soon confronted by the developing evil rising almost unstoppable across Europe.

The deadly game of cat and mouse ensues and sees members of the Olympic team in dangerous life-threatening situations and even the killing of several people who are surreptitiously trying to stop the heartless Nazi German master race.



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Price available on our site



AUTHOR BIO

Bruce Ryan has always been a keen writer despite having quite severe dyslexia as a child and learning to read and write very late. He thinks the struggle makes one cherish that ability even more in later life. Bruce works with students with disabilities and learning difficulties as a Teacher's Aide for the NSW Education Department.

Bruce was a dedicated, though not particularly talented, sportsman and coach for more than 40 years and Co-founder of Barton Park Giant Trees Arboretum which has given him great pleasure since 2007.

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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE '1936'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

I read a reference to a holocaust of the Sinti and Roma (gypsies) of Germany post 1900 and leading on to the 1936 Olympics.

I had never heard these two groups of people referred to in relation to the larger holocaust perpetrated on many, most notably the European Jews. It was an injustice to the perhaps 30,000 members of these communities said to have existed in Germany prior to WWII, their numbers were decimated with very low numbers living after 1945.

The terrible laws enacted in Germany dealing with so called racial impurity, were being abused throughout the 1920's and 1930's and saw people dragged off the street and forcibly sterilized. If there were any loud or public complaints, the people were disappeared. I felt that this needed writing.

HOW HAD YOU DECIDED ON THE BEST CHARACTER FOR THE BOOK?

I needed someone involved in the Australian team without them being an athlete. I wanted him to be a young adult with a complete lack of knowledge of the world of spying.

FOR WHOM DID YOU WRITE IT AND WHY?

For those who seek an understanding of the past, the terrible injustices, delivered in a fiction they can put down. Yet, a history they cannot forget.

Men and women who like worthy if unassuming heroines and heroes and their need to try to bring justice to an unjust world.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE BOOK AND ALSO THESE CHARACTERS WITHIN?

An interest in the Berlin Olympics and the propaganda gained by its successes by the Nazi regime.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE BOOKS?

Currently, I am writing a novel about an unwilling medium called 'Broken Places'.

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