



The Lieutenant

By Kate Grenville

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A stunning follow-up to her Commonwealth Writers' Prize-winning book, *The Secret River*, Kate Grenville's *The Lieutenant* is a gripping story about friendship, self-discovery, and the power of language set along the unspoiled shores of 1788 New South Wales. As a boy, Daniel Rooke was always an outsider. Ridiculed in school and misunderstood by his parents, Daniel could only hope, against all the evidence, that he would one day find his place in life. When he joins the marines and travels to New South Wales as a lieutenant on the First Fleet, Daniel finally sees his chance for a new beginning. As his countrymen struggle to control their cargo of convicts and communicate with those who already inhabit the land, Daniel constructs an observatory to chart the stars and begin the scientific work he prays will make him famous. But the place where they have landed will prove far more revelatory than the night sky. Out on his isolated point, Daniel comes to intimately know the local Aborigines and forges a remarkable connection with one young girl, Tagaran, that will forever change the course of his life. As the strained coexistence between the Englishmen and the native tribes collapses into violence, Daniel is forced to decide between dedication to his work, allegiance to his country, and his protective devotion to Tagaran and her people. Inspired by the notebooks of British astronomer William Dawes, *The Lieutenant* is a remarkable story about the poignancy and emotional power of a friendship that defies linguistic and cultural barriers, and shows one ordinary man that he is capable of exceptional courage.

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The Lieutenant By Kate Grenville Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Grenville (*The Secret River*) delivers another vivid novel about the British colonization of Australia, this one a delightful fictionalization of the life of William Dawes, a soldier-scholar who sailed from England in 1788 with the first fleet to transport British prisoners to New South Wales. Dawes's stand-in is Daniel Rooke, a loner with a passion for mathematics and astronomy who makes a living as a marine. He joins the expedition with the hope of tracking a comet that will not be visible from Great Britain, building a makeshift hut and observatory separate from the settlement (largely so he can avoid his prison guard duties). Although food is insufficient and the marines are outnumbered by the convicts, there is little unrest, but while Daniel shifts his ambitions from identifying previously unnamed stars to discovering a language and culture unknown in England, tensions escalate between the newcomers and the Aborigines, forcing Daniel to choose between duty to his king and loyalty to a land and people he has come to love. Grenville's storytelling shines: the backdrop is lush and Daniel is a wonderful creation—a conflicted, curious and endearing eccentric. (*Sept.*) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [The New Yorker](#)

Grenville's novel, based on the true story of William Dawes, who was among the soldiers accompanying the first prisoners sent to Australia, concerns Daniel Rooke, a lonely, introverted sort whose skill as an astronomer earns him a privileged position in the first colonial mission sent to New South Wales, in 1787. Living apart from his regiment for the purpose of studying stars, Rooke befriends a young Aboriginal girl and begins to compile a vocabulary and grammar of her language. But as tensions between the two groups escalate he must choose between what he feels is right and what he considers his duty. Grenville's thematic relentlessness can be stultifying, but the honest beauty of her story wins out.

Review

"[The Lieutenant] glows with life: imaginative in its re-creations, respectful of what cannot be imagined, and thoughtful in its interrogation of the past. . . . Grenville's most intellectually sophisticated novel to date." -- Kerryn Goldsworthy

"I'm a shamefully late, and enraptured, discoverer of Kate Grenville, whose *The Lieutenant* is a supremely good novel. . . . [It] has excited me more than any novel I've read since those of W. G. Sebald." -- Diana Athill

"[The Lieutenant] has a potency and beauty that lingers in both the heart and mind's eye.... Rooke and Tagaran are superbly written, and Grenville conveys not only the sense of true kinship that grows between them, but also the euphoria of connection and understanding between two people from different universes. [The Lieutenant] visits a part of Australian black-white history and finds a true heart of goodness there." -- Lucy Clark

"A particular kind of stillness marks out Grenville's characters as uniquely hers. . . . Between the words and among them, this is a profoundly uplifting novel." -- Katy Guest

"Grenville inhabits characters with a rare completeness . . . and writes with a poet's sense of rhythm and imagery. . . . [She] explores the natural rifts that arise between settlers and native people with a deep understanding of the ambiguities inherent in such conflicts . . . [and] occupies the mind of Rooke with a kind of vivid insistence, and his isolation--and moral dilemmas--become ours." -- Jay Parini

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Drew:

Hey guys, do you really want to find a new book to see? Maybe the book with the name The Lieutenant suitable to you? The actual book was written by renowned writer in this era. The book entitled The Lieutenant is a single of several books that everyone read now. This particular book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know just before. The author explained their idea in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to recognise the core of this book. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world on this book.

Kerri Goodman:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world may share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the books. But also they write about the information about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some study before they write for their book. One of them is this The Lieutenant.

Loren Velasco:

You may spend your free time to read this book this guide. This The Lieutenant is simple bringing you can read it in the park, in the beach, train and soon. If you did not have got much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy typically the e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save often the book in your smart phone. Thus there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

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