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Australia To Z



Synopsis

Australia to Z - an alphabet book, but not one for the young and teaching them their letters. Instead Armin Greder has cast his critical eye on us and our symbols.' Libby Gleeson'Disquieting and potent - a gloves off" account of Australian nationhood, and how we, as a culture, might appear to those from other cultures. This is a profoundly significant work which will - like Greder's The Island and The City - provoke, disturb and challenge the reader's perception of what it means to be Australian, and what it means to be a global citizen.' Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright

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Customer Reviews

I don't normally review picture books - not because I don't read them and love them (I do, I really do!) but because I think to do them justice I'd have to dedicate an entire blog to the reviewing of them (Hey! There's an idea...) and I personally love the book blogs in which actual children review picture books (and I'll admit, their opinions hold more weight than mine!)But I simply have to rave about Armin Greder's 2016 picture-alphabet book, 'Australia to Z'.Look, all picture books are art books as far as I'm concerned. But Greder's especially feels sharp and subversive - and a perfect

example of how children's picture books especially, can say so much with so little. In Greder's alphabet book, A is for 'Aborigine', 'Boat People' is for B 'Rupert Murdoch' stands for R and 'Meat Pies' comes before 'Nationalist' (with a drawing of a man wearing an Australia flag cape ...) Author Libby Gleeson perfectly summarises what this Alphabet Book is really all about, and how it's for everyone: "... Armin Greder has cast his critical eye on us and our symbols." Indeed he has - the good, the bad and the downright ugly (aforementioned 'Nationalist' and 'Rupert') This book says a lot with so little - flipping through the pages and acknowledging the chosen alphabet symbols is sometimes uncomfortable for Greder's scathing accuracy - P is for Pokies - but there's beauty alongside the brutal, and Greder's underlying message is a powerful one worthy of applause. 'Australia to Z' is probably going to be my favourite picture book of 2016. I expect to see it winning awards in the coming months, as a celebrated picture book for the young and old - indeed, an important book for all of us to read and listen to its powerful message.

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