



# LUCA ANTARA

MARTIN EDMOND

**new title**

*'Luca Antara is a book-lover's book, a graceful and mesmerizing blend of history, autobiography, travel and romance.'* - JM Coetzee

## REVIEW COVERAGE:

'Reading this book is like listening to someone whose companionable, open-ended stories are absorbing yet elusive: you must make of them what you will.'

- Artemis Cooper, *Daily Telegraph*

'A detective story for bibliophiles, Luca Antara is as much a tale of books lost and found as it is what it purports to be: a history of the origins of Australia.. [a] wonderfully original memoir.'

- Ian Beestone, *The Observer*

'...part autobiography, part history, part travel book and part quest narrative, an unusual combination that nevertheless works. Indeed, Edmond's text is often a pure pleasure to read'

- John Clay, *The Literary Review*

'...a must-read for anyone attempting to understand Australia and its diverse and beautiful culture.. - Francesca Roberts, *Australia & New Zealand Magazine*

'Graceful, uninhibited, eccentric and filled with humorous pathos Luca Antara is a rare book... Bursting with quirky anecdotes Luca Antara is a browser's paradise as Edmond contemplates Australia with wry precision and luminous prose.' - Independent Weekly

'This is one of the more intriguing books to come out of Australia during the last year... The characters breathe new life into history's bones.' - The Press - New Zealand

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## DESCRIPTION:

**'A book rich in ideas, at once erudite and eclectic, and full of beautifully unexpected and evocative descriptions... This is back-packing for the mind, a trip full of remarkable sights.'**

New to Sydney, impoverished and displaced, Martin Edmond ekes out a living as a taxi driver and in his spare time, scours second hand bookshops in search of Australia's history. Amidst the rare books he savours, Edmond stumbles upon the extraordinary tale of a seventeenth century Portuguese servant, António da Nova, sent to find the mysterious Luca Antara.

The lives of Edmond and da Nova and the strange customs and unique social mores of each man's culture and time intertwine in this quest for a history of Australia; a quest that takes the reader to the far Marquesas, Paris at the time of the Commune, the Portugal of the Fátima revelations, seventeenth century Dutch fatalities on the Houtman Abrolhos and the mysterious first Portuguese voyages into northern Australia.

## BIOGRAPHY:

**Martin Edmond** grew up in a remote mountain village in New Zealand's King Country. After university, he joined avant theatre troupe Red Mole, touring extensively and internationally in the late 1970s. Since 1981 he has lived in Sydney, working as an author and a screenwriter. He has written the feature films *Illustrious Energy* and *Terra Nova*; his books include *The Autobiography of my Father*, *The Resurrection of Philip Clairmont* and *Chronicle of the Unsung*, which won the Biography Award at the 2005 Montana Book Awards.

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