

Capricornia

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Synopsis

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Spanning three generationsâ€š Capricornia tells the story of Australia's North. It is a story of whites and Aborigines and Asiansâ€š of chance relationships that can form bonds for lifeâ€š of dispossessionâ€š murder and betrayal.

In 1904 the brothers Oscar and Mark Shillingsworthâ€š clad in serge suits and bowler hatsâ€š arrive in Port Zodiac on the coast of Capricornia. They are clerks who have come from the South to join the Capricornian Government Service. Oscar prospersâ€š and takes to his new life as a gentleman. Markâ€š howeverâ€š is restlessâ€š and takes up with old Ned Kraterâ€š a trepang fishermanâ€š who tells him tales of the sea and the islandsâ€š introduces him to drinkâ€š and boasts of his conquests of Aboriginal women - or 'Black Velvet'â€š as they are called. But it is Mark's sonâ€š Normanâ€š whose struggles to find a place in the world, who embodies the complexities of Capricornia itself.

Reader's comments

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