

**"OUT THERE", A
ROMANCE OF
AUSTRALIA**

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"Out there", a romance of Australia by Dick Donovan

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DICK DONOVAN

**"OUT THERE", A
ROMANCE OF
AUSTRALIA**

"OUT THERE"

A ROMANCE OF AUSTRALIA

BY

DICK DONOVAN

AUTHOR OF

"PAGES FROM AN ADVENTUROUS LIFE," "JIM THE PENMAN,"

"THE SCARLET SEAL," "FOR HONOUR OR DEATH,"

"A WILD BEAUTY," "THE TURNING WHEEL,"

"FOR GOD AND THE CZAR,"

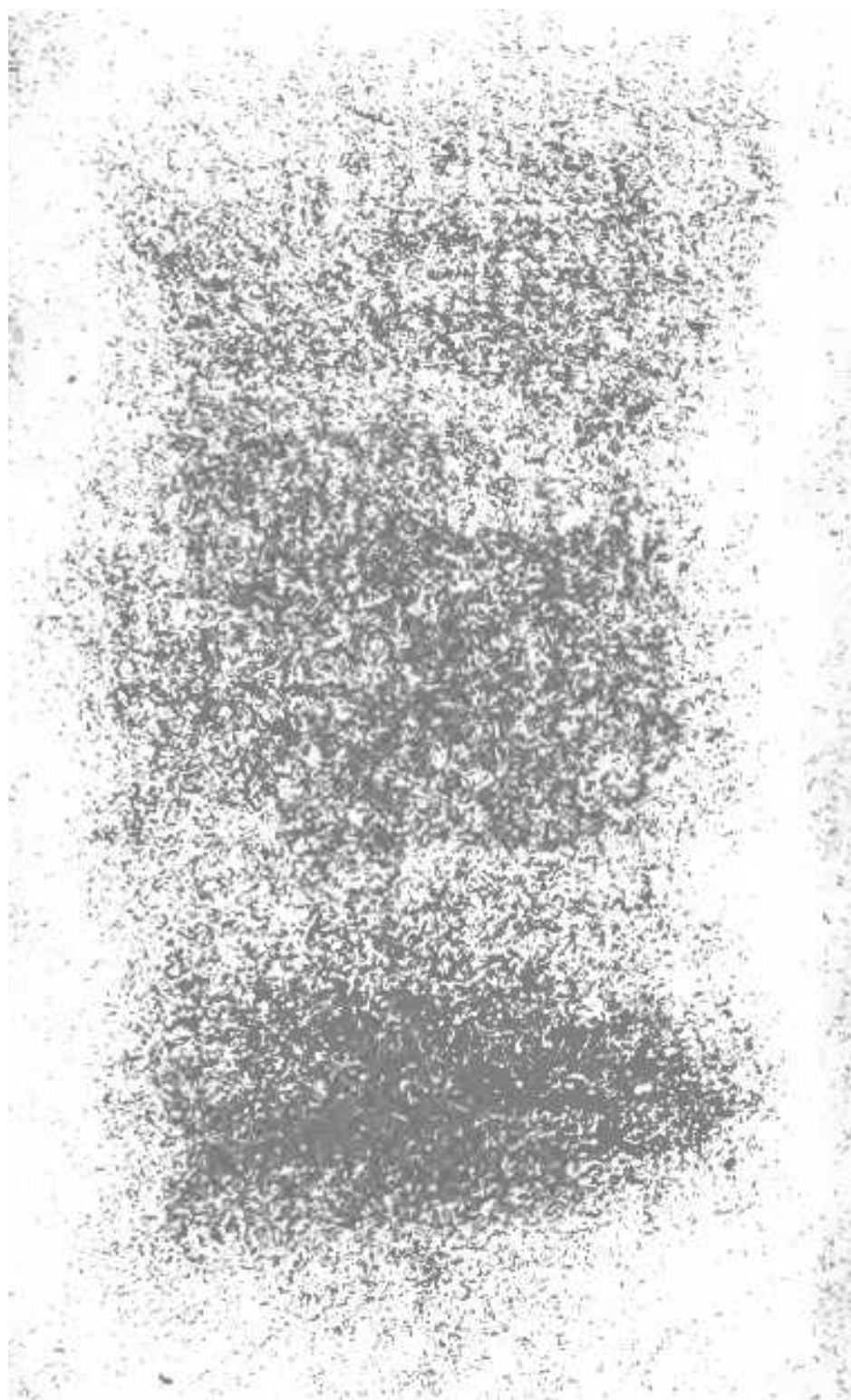
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Annex

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CONTENTS

BOOK I

LOVE

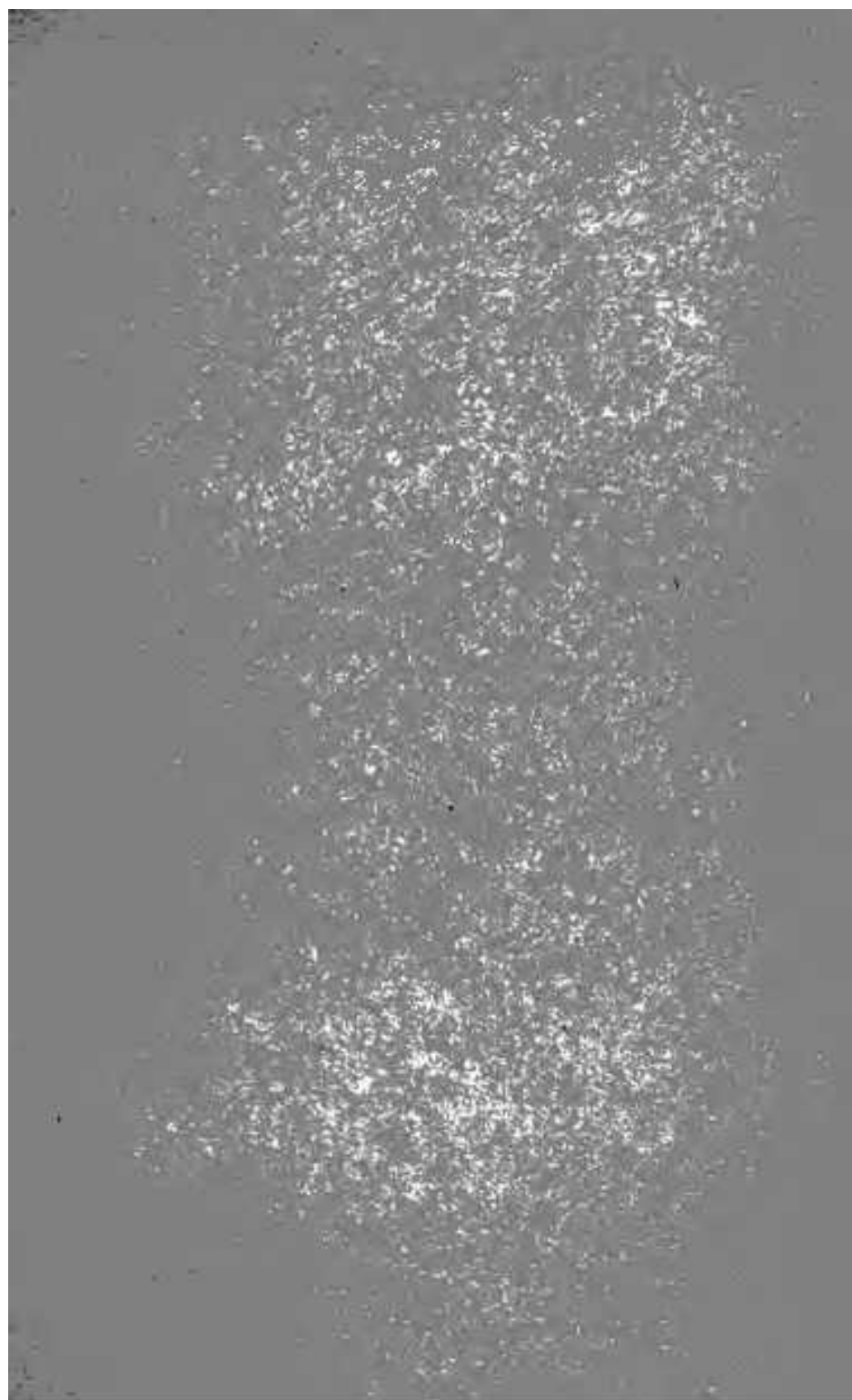
CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE DROUGHT	9
II. MARY	15
III. BILL BLEWITT	28
IV. THE BIRTH OF DOUBT	38
V. LOVE AND GOLD	46
VI. SOMETHING BREAKS	57
VII. THE SPELL OF A WOMAN'S SOUL	68
VIII. TORTURED WITH DOUBTS	75
IX. IN THE TENDERNESS OF THE NIGHT	82
X. THE CALL OF THE WILD	92
XI. THE BREAKING OF THE DROUGHT	100
XII. GORDON RETURNS	110
XIII. THE DECISION	120
XIV. THE AWAKENING	131
XV. IN THE WILDERNESS	140
XVI. A VISION OF SPLENDOUR	149
XVII. THE RIVALS	156
XVIII. TENSE MOMENTS	164
XIX. WRESTLING WITH DEATH	171
XX. THE LAST DAY	177

CONTENTS

BOOK II

VENGEANCE

CHAP.	PAGE
XXI. HAUNTING FEARS	185
XXII. LOVE FINDS UTTERANCE	192
XXIII. OUT OF THE SILENCE	200
XXIV. THE MESSAGE FROM THE WEST	207
XXV. THE SERPENT'S TEETH	213
XXVI. A LITTLE SCANDAL	221
XXVII. THE HOME-COMING	228
XXVIII. THY WILL BE DONE	236
XXIX. CONSCIENCE DOETH MAKE COWARDS	245
XXX. SOMETHING LIKE A MIRACLE	251
XXXI. FATE DEALS ANOTHER BLOW	259
XXXII. TOWARDS THE "GREAT WATERS"	267
XXXIII. THE TRIUMPH OF HAROLD	275



PROEM

This is the story of one man's soul.

The paths are stony and passion is blind,
And feet must bleed ere the light we find.
The cypher is writ on Life's mighty scroll,
And the Key is in each man's mind.

But who read aright, ye have won release,
Ye have touched the joy in the heart of Peace.

—*G. E. Evans.*

My story was suggested by a beautiful poem entitled "Lorraine," which appears in a volume of verses by the late George Essex Evans, the Australian poet, entitled "The Secret Key," published by Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1906.

“OUT THERE”*

BOOK I

LOVE

“O sweet is the dawn of Love's perfect spring,
When the white arms clasp and the soft lips cling.”

CHAPTER I

THE DROUGHT

THE blazing sun flung out its scorching rays from the cobalt sky, lighting up the billowy landscape with a flame of withering fire. The panting earth, riven and shrivelled, was brown and bare. The hardy gum and box trees drooped and wilted, the water courses had dried up, and the erstwhile picturesque little settlement of Glenbar Run had the appearance of having been swept by a thrice heated blast of a smelting furnace. Like most Australian settlements on the fringe of the Wilderness Glenbar Run, an outpost of civilisation, was a straggling hamlet composed of wooden shanties which might have been shaken up in a gigantic dice box and tumbled out on to the earth in higgledy-piggledy fashion. Hardy men from the old country had come here to tempt fortune and make their homes. They were all in the employ of the owner of the Run. There had been fat years and lean years. In the fat ones horses, sheep and cattle roamed the grass-green, well-watered plains, and brought wealth to their owners; then ensued a period when the heavens dried up, the parched earth

* “Out There” is the vernacular of Australia to indicate the wilderness and unexplored regions.