

**THEY THAT SIT IN
DARKNESS: A STORY OF
THE AUSTRALIAN NEVER-
NEVER**

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They That Sit in Darkness: A Story of the Australian Never-Never by John Mackie

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JOHN MACKIE

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DARKNESS: A STORY OF
THE AUSTRALIAN NEVER-
NEVER**



"THE SNAKE WRITHED A CONFUSED SERIES OF COILS UPON THE GROUND."
—Page 39.

They That Sit In Darkness

A Story of the Australian Rever-Rever

By JOHN MACKIE

AUTHOR OF "THE DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND," AND "SINNERS TWAIN."

New York

FREDERICK A. STOKES COMPANY

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1905

LONDON, 1897.

MY DEAR HORNING,

As you, like myself, have boiled your billy in the Australian bush, and as I have always found your stories of the old life so refreshing, allow me to dedicate this book to you.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN MACKIE.

E. W. HORNING, Esq.

TRANSFER FROM C. C. OCT 1936

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P R E F A C E.

As it is a far cry from the Great Lone Land of North America to the lonelier Never-Never of tropical Australia, perhaps it may be as well to say something explanatory. In my wayward youth, when necessity and an irrepressible love of adventure made me a wanderer in strange places, I figured, in a humble way, as a pioneer of civilisation in the wild country it has been my endeavour to describe in these pages. I was the first white man to build a house and settle on the Van Alphen river in the far Northern Territory, and it was there I supported life, for weeks together, on crows, hawks, snakes and currajong roots. That was before I became, among other things, a gold-digger in Queensland, and a Mounted Policeman on the frontier in North America.

JOHN MACKIE.

LONDON.



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