



Book Review:

The Curate's Egg

by Tom Percy QC



Review by **Thomas Camp**

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There wouldn't be a reader of Brief who is not aware of Tom Percy QC. Indeed, while many high-flyers in our profession would be unknown to the layman, that is not so for Percy. Lawyer, radio personality, commentator; it is now time to add "author" to the list. And with *The Curate's Egg*, Percy is fully deserving of recognition as just that.

Published by Halstead Press, it is impressively written and has all the tension, twists and drama that would make it fitting for adaption as a tv mini-series. Percy has burst onto the literary scene with an excellent first offering.

We follow Declan McKenna at the beginning of the new millennia, a mining consultant in Perth who has recently returned to the big smoke from Albany. McKenna gets involved in a seemingly unspectacular gold float through an accountant friend and a wholly spectacular affair with an alluring finance reporter, which together see his world flipped on its head. As his comfortable existence begins to unravel, disparate threads from his life come together in a desperate fight for his future.

It is a book that keeps you on tenterhooks and has you asking whether the good can win, and whether they are actually good after all.

Australians, and particularly Western Australians, are no strangers to sensational stories from the worlds of mining, finance, the courts and law enforcement. This tale crosses over each of them, and there is of course also room for one of Percy's renowned loves, horse racing.

While we are assured that it is a work of fiction, I am told that for people familiar with the milieu of the noughties in which the book is comprised, there are plenty of characters and events which may be more than a little familiar.

Even if you, like me, weren't a part of it, it is refreshing as a Western Australian to read a book set in our own backyard and in a world we are all too familiar with. It provides an intimacy, as if you are part of the story.

The Curate's Egg is a thoroughly entertaining romp and is refreshingly concise. It is hoped that this is just the beginning of Percy's literary career. ■