



BOOK INFORMATION

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For more information, free preview, how to order, and metadata visit the [THE MALLEE website](https://www.852press.com.au/The-Mallee):

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

If you like fast-paced, page-turning thrillers then Richard Evans' crime thrillers on contemporary Australian political themes will not disappoint you.

Drawing on his insider experiences as a federal member of parliament during the 1990s Keating-Howard era and as a national industry leader, Richard Evans has created explosive believable stories using compelling characters and page-turning plots.

Through his well-researched books, he examines contemporary societal issues and, using his insider experience, exposes the dark arts of politics.

ABOUT THE STORY

She changes her name but not her attitude.

A streetwise opportunist escapes despair and abuse in the big city by seeking opportunities in regional Victoria.

Rose changes her name but not her attitude when she discovers wealth and privilege ripe for the taking from the influential Dowerin family.

She enjoys her privileged position, but the heat and dust, and her children become a burden.

A mysterious Murray River boating accident kills Rose's husband, leaving her a single mother of two with a third on the way. She then replaces her husband as the local federal politician for the Mallee electorate.

Cracks appear in Rose Dowerin's perfect world when the region struggles with prolonged drought.

A criminal syndicate, the majority owner of the water licensing system in Australia, wants to establish a Las Vegas-styled gambling precinct in the area and plan to use their political power and commercial muscle to get what they want.

Farmers question her influence on water policy and concede they need a more dynamic politician to represent them in Canberra.

Under threat, Rose falls back into her malevolent ways to overcome the forces against her until an unexpected family twist changes everything.

The fight for water is deadly.

THE MALLEE is an action-packed thriller with a strong female lead featuring emotional and surprising plot twists, convincing characters, and exposes the dark-arts of politics that will have you questioning the system.

THEMES

WATER RIGHTS

Water rights refer to the legal rights farmers and property owners have to access and use water (such as from rivers, streams, lakes, and dams) on their land.

Author Richard Evans considered it timely to examine water rights as a significant issue facing many in the desert continent of Australia providing a precious resource for the community, especially during drought.

Little is publicly known about water rights and the water licensing system, the politics of what it entails, who's involved, how water is managed, and how rights are granted.

What is known is that water licensing is mostly managed by individual Australian state governments, with varying outcomes. It is predicted that speculators and profiteers have entered the water market, impacting access and price for farmers, property owners, and irrigators.

THE MALLEE, in a fictional world, highlights the socio-economic challenges of water allocation, the impact and responsibility of water rights license holders, and the role of politics and politicians in addressing these important issues.

GAMING & GAMBLING

THE MALLEE teases out the idea of establishing a casino and tourism precinct outside Mildura. In reality, casino development in the region has been discussed over the years, but progress has stalled based in part due to tensions emerging between factions in the region and Victorian state government.

While the plot is driven by a crime syndicate, the story does highlight the ongoing concerns over the social impact of gaming and gambling in regional communities.

POLITICS & THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Rural federal Members of Parliament have unique and differing challenges in regional electorates and securing beneficial policy in Canberra when compared to the issues faced by metropolitan-based politicians.

The politics of water rights can be resolved through referendum by bring the management of water under federal jurisdiction. The Constitution requires amendment to do so.

THE MALLEE centres on the political process and competition of pre-selection (how a candidate comes to be selected to represent their party on the electoral ballot). The author wants to highlight the dark arts of politics, what happens behind the scenes and how things actually get done.