



The Call of the Territory: The Story of a Policeman and His Wife in Outback Australia 1952-1967

Basil Courts

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In this exciting real life adventure story of Outback Australia Basil and Molly Courts tell of their life together on remote police stations in Australia's Northern Territory. The couple's resourceful outlook and ready sense of humour make it an enthralling read. Basil recounts events such as the landmark 'Selly Murder' case involving a hunt across the harsh desert south west of Alice Springs. Amusing policing incidents include a car chase and the tale of the man who photographed himself with a stolen camera, as well as dramatic events such as deaths in the bush and a gruelling search on horseback, during the Wet season, for missing stockmen. Molly's account of treating aborigines for scabies, being involved in a plane crash, the difficulties of returning to the water-logged Wave Hill Police Station after the birth of her baby, and of weddings, race days and Territory characters will keep you turning pages. Humorous anecdotes, like the time when Basil was away on patrol and Molly climbed into a tree and shot a cow for beef for the aborigines, paint a picture of the contrasts of outback life, set against a backdrop of Northern Territory police and pastoral history of the era. Basil was commended for his police work and Molly was later awarded the OAM (Order of Australia Medal) for service to the community.

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