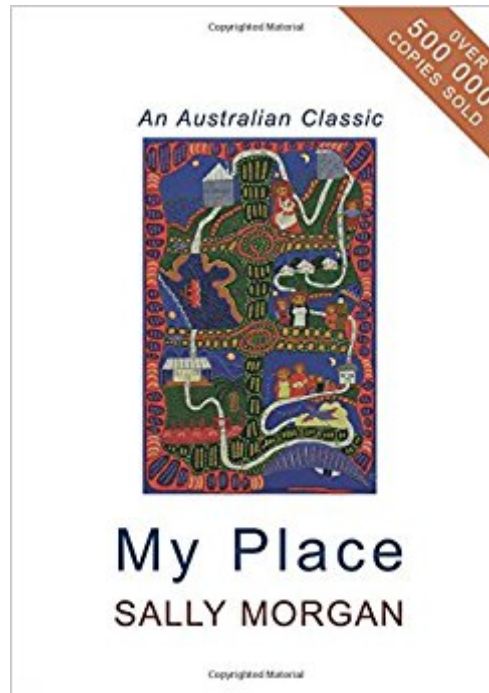




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# My Place (An Australian Classic)



## Synopsis

Looking at the views and experiences of three generations of indigenous Australians, this autobiography unearths political and societal issues contained within Australia's indigenous culture. Sally Morgan traveled to her grandmother's birthplace, starting a search for information about her family. She uncovers that she is not white but aborigine; information that was kept a secret because of the stigma of society. This moving account is a classic of Australian literature that finally frees the tongues of the author's mother and grandmother, allowing them to tell their own stories.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Growing up in Perth, Australia, in an impoverished, but lively and chaotic household dominated by her mother and grandmother, Morgan was 15 before she realized that she and her four siblings were of mixed Aboriginal descent. In this autobiography, she describes her efforts to identify with and record her family heritage. Oral histories gathered from her reticent and still fearful mother and grandmother, anxious to shield their children from the social stigma of their origins, are supplemented with accounts from relatives she tracked down in Northwest Australia's Aboriginal Reserves and livestock stations. They vividly describe the suffering caused by a government policy that took half-caste Aboriginal children away from their mothers. Although some Aborigines have successfully competed in Australian society, the author seems to agree with her uncle's contention

that colonialism is not yet over and does not accord Aborigines either equality or specially land rights or freedom to pursue their own way of life. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Morgan is 15 when she discovers that she is not white but aborigine a fact that has been kept secret because of society's stigma. Rather than tell the children about their heritage, her mother and grandmother have let them believe early ancestors emigrated to Australia from India. The teen-aged Morgan, having been an indifferent student at best, throws herself into her studies and then single-mindedly embarks on a search for her roots. Her quest is hampered by her grandmother's refusal to discuss the past but helped by an elderly great uncle, who is an accomplished raconteur, and leads her to the past and to other people. Morgan is a gifted storyteller, and this story is sad, triumphant, hilarious, and sensitive. For all public library collections. Joan Hinkemeyer, Englewood P.L., Col. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I got bogged down at first with the repeated stories of the author's alcoholic father's bouts, but eventually got caught up in the real story that she was telling. The story of the lives of the aboriginal natives of Australia is not dissimilar to the stories of slavery in the United States and white supremacy throughout the world. We are planning a trip to Australia next year and the books I am reading portray many facets of the history and life of that country. By the time I got into the book, I could not put it down. It is a riveting read.

My Place raised issues we as the Australian population, see, here of through social media and possibly touched on during our early years of education. The writer was also not aware of the issues her people had to face and are facing today. After reading Sally Morgan's book I feel we are still far from accepting her people as equals and from what I see her people still do not accept us. This I feel has its core in our early treatment of her race with the taking of their children, considering their nomadic and self governing lifestyle the white man's constraint and boundaries of their living practices, our injustices in treatment have probably left sad legacies from all their earlier generations who came into contact with the white man. Sally was well educated along with her hard working family and has portrayed through their memories a sincere and thoughtful encounter of her early ancestors struggle with their identity and burdens we gave them to bare.

I read this book when I was 8 yo when my dad, a diplomat, moved us to Sydney for 6 months. A

friend of his, notice that I love to read, and he gave me this book. I fell in love with Sally and her family instantly! Her feisty grandmother, her mother, and even her dad. Now I'm 26, I finally found a kindle version of it and I cannot wait to re-read this in the cottage up north for the 4th of July weekend!

Entertaining, edifying story. Well written. I learned a lot about the unfortunate relationship between whites and Aborigines in Australia. while following Sally Morgan on her captivating journey of inner and ancestral exploration. Full of humor and tragedy.

This is a true, and fascinating insight into the treatment of the Aborigines from the 1900's until present. It uncovers the racism of the Australian government, especially against bi-racial children, who were often removed from their parents under a government program of "education". It is told, first-hand, by a woman who tries to trace her Aboriginal heritage and find her "PLACE"...where she came from. It is simply written, and opens a world that Americans rarely get to read about.

Three generations of indigenous women in Australia discover their history and come to appreciate their culture and each other. Feisty women survivors.

It gave a detailed description of events in a girl's life - without examining the emotions of the girl in equal detail. It offered few reasons for anyone's behaviour and left me guessing as to the broader landscape of Australian behaviour at the time..A tight little story with important people as characters. Shame that I learnt so little about them - except how and where they moved Rex SmitTh

An important document of a shameful part of Australian history and yet a warm, funny, enjoyable read.

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