

Call of the Outback: The Remarkable Story of Ernestine Hill, Nomad, Adventurer and Trailblazer

Marianne van Velzen



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Long before Robyn Davidson wrote *Tracks*, the extraordinary Ernestine Hill was renowned for her intrepid travels across Australia's vast outback. After the birth of her illegitimate son, Ernestine Hill abandoned her comfortable urban life as a journalist for a nomadic one, writing about this country's vast interior and bringing the outback into the popular imagination of Australians. Throughout the 1930s Ernestine's hugely popular stories about Australia's remotest regions appeared in newspapers and journals around the nation. She still remains famous for her bestselling books *The Great Australian Loneliness*, *The Territory*, *Flying Doctor Calling*, and *My Love Must Wait. Call of the Outback* provides a vivid portrait of Ernestine, from the early brilliance she showed as a child in Brisbane to her later life. In particular it evokes Ernestine's larger-than-life personality, the exotic landscapes she explored, and the remarkable characters she met on her travels.

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