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# A Fortunate Life (Puffin Story Books)



## Synopsis

The remarkable story of an 'ordinary' man. Bert Facey's childhood ended when he was eight years old. That was when his grandmother had to send him away to work for his keep. Bert grew up tough in the vast, wild outback of Western Australia. He lived to eighty-seven, and wrote down his extraordinary story for his grandchildren. In spite of its difficulties and sufferings, he always believed he had had 'a fortunate life'. A classic in Australian writing, *A Fortunate Life* has been specially adapted for young readers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A very good and interesting story of a life and place. If you are going to Australia, this is a good introduction to Australia and its history.

Though this story just could not happen in today's society, it gave me an insight into how it once was in Australian society. Commencing in 1900 Australia, this is the true, unamended story of a young boy who had to commence his working life at the ripe old age of 9 years old. It is an honest and pure telling from the boy himself, through the highs and lows of his life - the many people, good

and bad he met and the hardships of war. Not having a lot of knowledge of Australian history, I was intrigued that things were so different back then. Conditions were a lot harder, survival was all that mattered in the harsh outback. I think in today's society we take a lot for granted and this put a lot of things into perspective for me. Though brief, it also gave me insight into what war was like, in particular, the Great War and Gallipoli in particular, which is very important to us Aussies. It has given me the push to find out more about this side of our history. Sadly, this is A B Facey's only novel, and it's sad that he was unable to write anything else as his writing is just so easy and honest to read. But it is certainly something that Australian literature should be proud of and I agree that it should have been included in the Top 10 "Aussie Books to Read Before you Die" which was currently voted upon and collaborated, winning the Number 2 position.

This is a wonderful, thought provoking autobiography by a person who was abandoned by his mother at the age of two in the early 1900's, brought up by his grandmother who was so desperate for money that he was sent out to work for his room and board at the age of eight. Despite all the awful things that happened to him during his childhood, his lack of any formal education, and the terrible things he endured throughout his entire life, he always considered himself very fortunate and did not write a single word of complaint about any situation that occurred during his entire lifetime. He was grateful for everything that happened, searched for and found that silver lining. My biggest wish is that whoever holds the copyright for this book would produce an inexpensive print version for sale in the USA. I have a few young relatives I would like to give an inexpensive print copy to. It would be a great read to hand them when they complain about how "tough" things are for them. Alas, I cannot afford \$115.00 a pop mentioned for print copies here in . They must be first editions or something; at that price there was no point checking. I am content with the e-book for myself.

Brilliant true story - the fortunate life was in fact what 'he' did to make his life fortunate... could have succumbed on many occasions but didn't... overcame immense odds to succeed right on through . ... should be required reading for the many who believe that life owes them..

This is a good book to read to start a conversation about expectations in life, and how different generations have such different hopes. I found it difficult to relate to his ability to forgive the terrible exploitation he suffered. Maybe that is the difference, our generation gets angry; we have our basic needs met, so we can afford the luxury of indignation. The story is simply written, and sounds as if it has been taken down verbatim. This makes it feel very real, even if I remain bewildered by Facey's

acceptance of his lot.

This book was a delightful read and I intend to buy copies for my grand children. It gives a wonderful outline of the hardships experienced by poor families, written in a very simple authentic style.

Today's children could think it unbelievable but I could relate the stories to those told by my mother and her father.

This is surely going to end up as one of Australia's Classics in the future. So simply written and yet with such powerful imagery Facey describes his amazing life. To have borne such hardships at such an early age, as well as having no ability to read or write, might have turned any man into a pessimist for life, yet he overcomes his adversities with good humour and a cheerful acceptance. Especially moving is his description of his time in the trenches at Gallipoli. One would have to be very hard-hearted not to shed a tear when reading this. Dogged by one misfortune after another, Albert Facey overcomes all and lives to a ripe old age when he finally tells his story for the world to enjoy. A must read for all!

I thoroughly enjoyed this book of stories about a man who had an incredibly challenging life. Every time he got knocked down he got back up again. Inspiring.

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