



'Insightful, sensitively
written and compelling.'

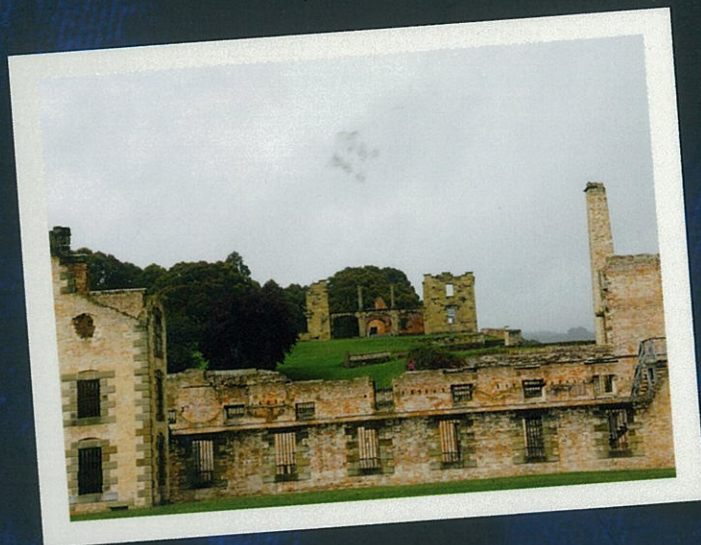
Libby Lester, Head of Journalism,
University of Tasmania



The Media and the Massacre

PORT ARTHUR 1996–2016

SONYA VOUMARD



‘An unflinching dissection of the relationships
between journalists and their subjects –
a compelling exposé of journalistic culture.’

John Dale, author of *Huckstepp*

Sonya Voumard's *The Media and the Massacre* is a chilling portrayal of journalism, betrayal, and storytelling surrounding the 1996 Port Arthur massacre. Inspired, in part, by renowned American author Janet Malcolm's famously controversial work *The Journalist and the Murderer*, Voumard's elegant new work of literary non-fiction examines the fascinating theme of 'the writer's treachery'. The author brings to bear her own journalistic experiences, ideas and practices in a riveting inquiry into her profession that is part memoir and part ethical investigation.

One of her case studies is the 2009 book *Born or Bred?* by two prominent journalists – Robert Wainwright and Paola Totaro – about the perpetrator of the Port Arthur massacre, Martin Bryant, and his mother Carleen Bryant. Carleen received an undisclosed legal settlement over the best-selling book's use of her personal manuscript.

In the lead-up to the 20th anniversary of the Port Arthur massacre, *The Media and the Massacre* explores the nature of journalistic intent and many of the wider moral and social issues of the storytelling surrounding the events and their place in our cultural memory.



Non - fiction



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The Media and the Massacre

PORT ARTHUR 1996-2016

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The Media and the Massacre
Port Arthur 1996–2016

SONYA VOUMARD





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For those without a voice



Important note:

While this work draws inspiration regarding writers' ethical and moral dilemmas from the works of Janet Malcolm, and in particular *The Journalist and the Murderer*, the author in no way suggests a specific comparison between the obvious, premeditated conduct of journalist Joe McGinniss in that text and the circumstances, including its authors' conduct, surrounding the book *Born or Bred?*

We imagine evil is other than human, beyond understanding, almost mystical. This lets us off the hook, lets us deny our own capacity for evil, and stops us from analyzing the very human, very common causes of it.

James Dawes, *Evil Men*

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On Sunday, 28 April 1996, a 29-year-old man, armed with high-powered guns, drove to a home near Port Arthur in Tasmania where he shot and killed a local couple. He then drove to the nearby Port Arthur historic site of the nineteenth-century convict settlement and began firing on the tourist crowds. A total of 35 people were killed and 21 injured in what was then the world's worst civilian massacre.

The shooter's name was Martin Bryant. He is the son of Carleen Bryant and her late husband, Maurice. In the Supreme Court of Tasmania on 22 November 1996, Bryant was sentenced to 1035 years without parole for his crimes, having pleaded guilty. He is serving his sentence in Risdon Prison, near Hobart.