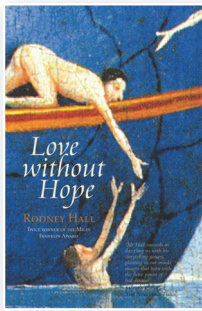


Miles Franklin Literary Award 2008 *shortlist*



Love without Hope Rodney Hall

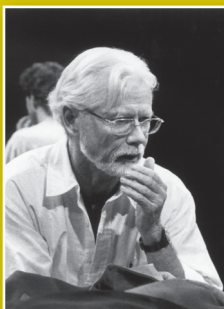
Picador (Pan Macmillan Australia)
ISBN: 978 0 330 42288 8

The elderly Mrs Shoddy suffers acute depression as a result of a bushfire that kills her beloved horses.

A capable countrywoman, she loses her grip and is living in squalor when the district nurse finds her and has her committed to an insane asylum. The time is 1982; the place, a country town in NSW. The NSW Department of Lunacy is still in operation, headed by an official with the title The Master in Lunacy.

In this powerful novel, finding herself pitted against the power of the state, Mrs Shoddy calls on her memories of her missing husband, on the spirit of her horses and on the recovery of her self-respect and resilience to create a world in which she can remain sane, even against the institutional brutality she is subjected to. And the characters in her mind become as palpable as the real people she is surrounded by.

A hymn of praise to human tenderness, the power of memory and the power of music, *Love Without Hope* confirms Rodney Hall's status as one of Australia's finest storytellers.



About Rodney Hall

Rodney Hall is a novelist and a poet. His novels include *Just Relations*, *Kisses of the Enemy*, *A Dream More Luminous than Love*, *The Island in the Mind*, *The Day We Had Hitler Home* and *The Last Love Story*. He has twice been awarded the Miles Franklin Award, and has been honoured with membership of the Order of Australia. He lives in Box Hill North, Victoria.