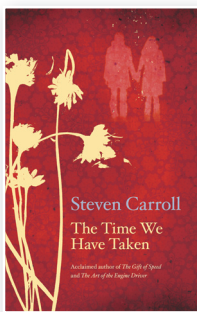


Miles Franklin Literary Award 2008 *shortlist*



The Time We Have Taken Steven Carroll

Fourth Estate (HarperCollins Publishers Australia)
ISBN: 978 0 7322 7836 6

*That exotic tribe was us.
And the time we have taken, our moment.*

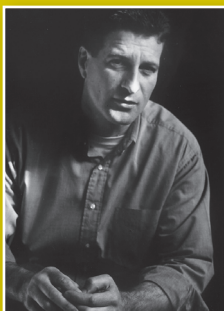
One summer morning in 1970, Peter van Rijn, proprietor of the television and wireless shop, pronounces his Melbourne suburb one hundred years old.

That same morning, Rita is awakened by a dream of her husband's snores, yet it is years since Vic moved north. Their son, Michael, has left for the city, and is entering the awkward terrain of first love.

As the suburb prepares to celebrate progress, Michael's friend Mulligan is commissioned to paint a mural of the area's history. But what vision of the past will his painting reveal?

Meanwhile, Rita's sometime friend Mrs Webster confronts the mystery of her husband's death. And Michael discovers that innocence can only be sustained for so long.

The Time We Have Taken is both a meditation on the rhythms of suburban life and a luminous exploration of public and private reckoning during a time of radical change.



About Steven Carroll

Steven Carroll was born in Melbourne. He was educated at La Trobe University and taught English in high schools before playing in bands in the 1970s. After leaving the music scene he began writing as a playwright and later became the theatre critic for the *Sunday Age*.

His first novel, *Remember Me, Jimmy James*, was published in 1992. This was followed by *Momoko* (1994), *The Love Song of Lucy McBride* (1998), and then *The Art of the Engine Driver* (2001) and *The Gift of Speed* (2004), shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award in 2002 and 2005, respectively. *The Art of the Engine Driver* was also shortlisted in 2005 for the Prix Femina, France's prestigious literary award for the best foreign novel.

Steven Carroll lives in Melbourne with his partner and son.