

Contents

Cultural warning	ii
Map	viii
Acknowledgments	ix
Preface	xi
Author's note	xiii
Chapter 1: A black girl in a white world	1
Chapter 2: Childhood games and mission ways	14
Chapter 3: The birds and the bees	27
Chapter 4: Finding country	40
Chapter 5: Scared in the city	52
Chapter 6: A family at last	64
Chapter 7: Death in custody	77
Chapter 8: Terrorised	87
Chapter 9: The brolga and other stories from Mother	100
Chapter 10: Sorry business	108
Chapter 11: Finding identity	123
Chapter 12: Through Yamatji eyes	130
Epilogue: Speaking my truth	147
Glossary	153
Bibliography	158
Notes	162

List of poetry

Lost mother (2013)	x
Gifts from nature (2013)	9
The river (2007)	12
Dragonfly (2015)	19
The sea (2005)	33
Midnight magic (2015)	39
Lost child (2009)	44
Night (2007)	63
Emotionally dead (1981)	72
Black man's law (1995)	86
Payback (1991)	98
Elder (1993)	109
Family (1990)	111
Dance with me (2014)	127
Watching (1999)	129
Silence (1998)	140
Yamatji eyes (1999)	146
Before I leave (2015)	151

List of images and artwork

(see between pages 80 and 81)

Images

Teens Cottage residents, 1964
Granny Ruby Beasley (born Spratt)
Picnic at Miaboolya Beach, circa 1963
Rhonda's mother, Alice Ethel Spratt, 1972
Rhonda's great-grandmother on her mother's side, Nellie Spratt
(born Male)
Nana Edna Ronan with her mother, Alice Ethel Ronan
Rhonda and Jerry's wedding, 8 January 1972
All the girls ready for Sunday church
Loading up the truck with wood
Swimming at Shelly Beach

Rhonda's father, Ronald Mack Ugle
 Rhonda and her sister Debbie
 Rhonda at the Gascoyne River, 2007
 Rhonda with Elder, Uncle Albert Holt, and Brisbane
 Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk
 Rhonda with former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, in 2011
 Carnarvon reunion, 2007
 At Karatha, on the way to the 2013 mission reunion

Artwork

Brolga Dreaming
 Child of the Land
 Dancing Goannas
 Rainbow Snake Dancer

Transcribed letters

Letter from Alice Spratt to Mrs Stitfold, with annotation to Mr Lewis, 1950	2
Letter to Mrs Robinson from her dying daughter, Alice Ronan, 1925	103
Letter from Stanley Webb to the Commission of Native Welfare, Perth, 12 August 1958	117

Facsimiles

'Report on Inmate', (Rhonda's school report card) Department of Native Welfare, 1964	28
Order to send Nellie Spratt to Moore River Native Settlement, 22 April 1925	49
Girls to employment letter, 21 November 1967	53
'Aboriginal tells of police terror', <i>The West Australian</i> , 7 September 1991	93
'Collards to be complemented [sic] on dignity over encounter', news release by WA Liberal leader Richard Court, 8 September 1991	94
Report on Alice Webb's (born Spratt) citizenship application, 28 October 1958	116