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Sydney Bridge Upside Down (Text Classics)

David Ballantyne
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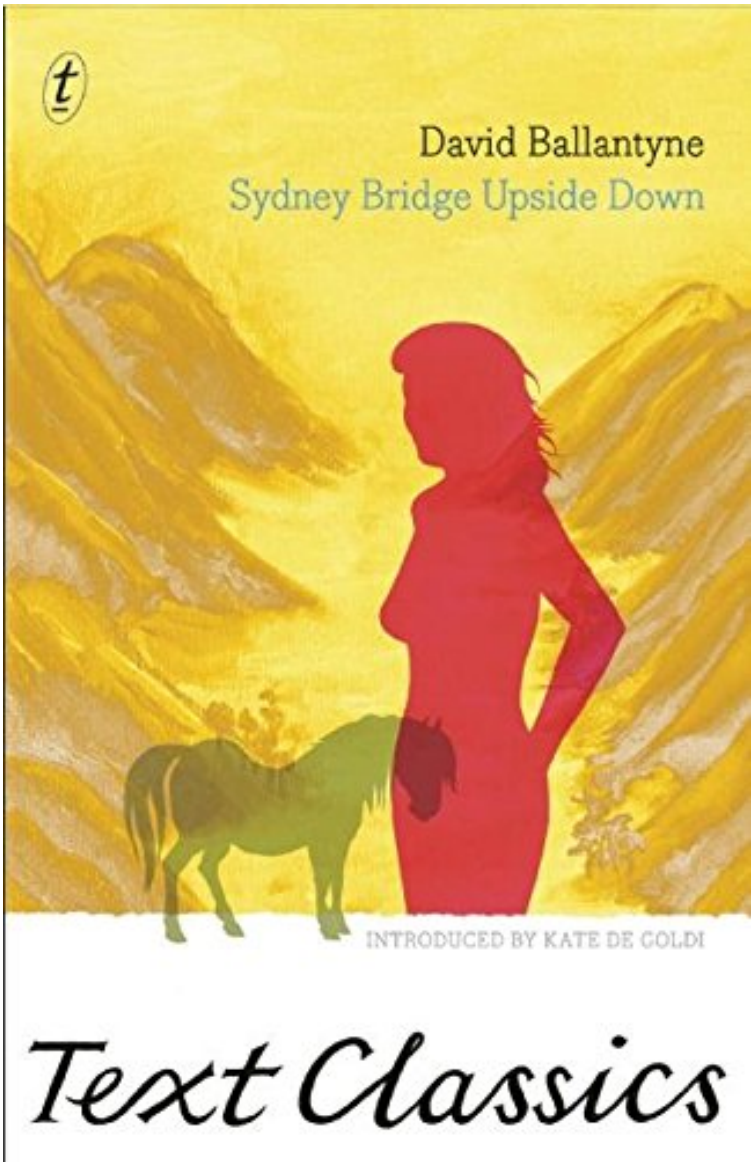

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David Ballantyne : Sydney Bridge Upside Down (Text Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sydney Bridge Upside Down (Text Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not just a New Zealand ClassicBy andrew.lizSydney Bridge Upside Down: Text ClassicsThis is a book that can be read on different levels. It is a tale told by a boy on the verge of adolescence. Like all the characters in the book we are left to guess just how old Harry is. Things start out all adventurous sea side remote country holiday things but with an underlying darkness which is hard to pin point. David

Ballantyne's writing is easy to access in his use of words but these simple words as they are narrated by Harry need constant dissecting as to what he is saying.I had to re-read on a quick turn around. If you are astute enough you may not need to revisit, but for me the layers of Harry and what happened on that holiday only took shape second time around. The title alone is worth investigation.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I bought this on the strength of it being set ...By BronithI bought this on the strength of it being set in Hicks Bay which is recognisable throughout the book - the wharf, the river, the rocks, the school, the shop the abandoned freezing works where I also played as a child. The geography is the only connection. The story is grim and well told out of a young boy's head.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy Denise315sReally enjoyed this book. Recommended it to family and friends. It was also a definite "hit" with one of my friends as well. Thought it was really evocative of New Zealand, I could almost smell it. It was very dark, with loads of undercurrents that added to the mystery - but so well written that I am sure it could have been true. Definitely one of the best books I read last year, but darkness and subject matter may not be to everyone's taste.

"What begins as the story of an ordinary country boy quickly turns strange and unpredictable indeed. . . . Funny, inventively written, and more than slightly odd, Sydney Bridge Upside Down makes a long-awaited and welcome return."—Sonya HartnettA great, untamed story about childhood, a summer holiday, and a sinister tragedy that looms over everything.

'What begins as the story of an ordinary country boy quickly turns strange and unpredictable indeed…Funny, inventively written, and more than slightly odd, Sydney Bridge Upside Down makes a long-awaited and welcome return.'Sonya Hartnett'It holds in heartbreaking tension that point between innocence and experience, sanity and disarray that we recognize in works as disparate as Iain Banks’s The Wasp Factory and Hal Porter’s The Watcher on the Cast-Iron Balcony, in which the private catechisms of childhood and adolescence are translated into an adult tongue.'Weekend Australian'How did we fail to give this gripping, funny, desperately sad, great New Zealand novel, set “on the edge of the world”, its due when it was first published in 1968?…Not until last year when l was urged to read it again did l fully understand what a masterpiece Ballantyne had pulled off.'NZ Herald'Sydney Bridge Upside Down is a gothic masterpiece that subverts many of the norms of realist fiction in a way that justifies its reputation as not only one of the most important local novels of the 1960s, but one whose terms seem clearer with the benefit of hindsight and thus resonate even more insistently today.'Listener