

In South Australia, the author fights other Yahoos for colored stones. Revelation! He turns to the beauties of Japan and literature. "Highly entertaining..." (A notable Booker Prize winner).

Opal & Beyond

by George Kennedy

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OPAL & BEYOND

1972 – 1977 – 1987

2

of three literary memoirs

GEORGE KENNEDY

OPAL & BEYOND

MEMOIR THE SECOND

wherein

The Author contends with fellow Yahoos in New Holland.

The Author is delivered by the Great Author.

The Author revisits the country of his authoring.

The Author visits Japan.

The Author authors three children.

The Author authors unpublished works.

The Author authors an invention, *Cubewise*.

The Author relates its unfortunate history as a warning to other Authors.

The Author swears by his account. He has not invented the behaviour of real and identifiable persons.

The Author confesses he cannot recall every word of distant conversations.

The Author invites scrutiny of his Memoirs on the Website or in the e-books: *pardoe.com*.

The Author solicits commentary on the Blog.

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First Edition

Dedicated to Uma and to Maria Grist (matchless webmaster)

COVER PICTURE:: ‘YAHOO’S FIGHTING OVER COLOURED STONES’

DESIGN BY J.G.THOMSON: *GULLIVER’S TRAVELS* PUB. S.O.BEETON
(1864)



61

1974

OPAL: BLOW-AIRS

“My name is Robert. I am Franchman. Pierre say you are interest to buy blow-air.”

“Just one. How many do you have?”

“I have one blow-air on Olympics. Very nice blow-air. Very cheap.”

“Shall we go and see it now?”

“Can I get up on the truck tray?”

“*Faites attention aux voyeurs.*”

“What? Here? Oh, *wires*. The hopper’s quite low isn’t it?, but you could probably attach sheets of corrugated iron to steer the dirt from the blower.”

“Nice fans, belts is good.”

“What’s the truck motor like?”

“Good trucks.”

“Where’s the ignition?”

“No keys. Touch ze *voyeurs*. Much more quickly to start.”

“Then start ‘er up.”

“IT SUCKS WELL.”

“I SAID IT SUCKS WELL. CUT IT.”

“It’s cheap enough – \$4,000. Why are you selling, Robert?”

“Monnaie.”

“I would need an offsider. Are you interested?”

“Not interest, *Georges* – h-honoured.”

62

1974

BEYOND: RECOGNITION

I don’t recognise Conara.

I don’t recognise myself in her description.

“...I’ve decided to move into my own place in Coober Pedy. At the end of the year I’ll get a teaching post in another town.”

I recognise my right of reply.
I recognise its futility.

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MAR 1974

BEYOND: INTERESTING THINGS (6): LIKE ME HAT?

MAR 1974

INTERESTING THINGS (6): LIKE ME HAT?



64

1974

OPAL: JIM (1): INTRODUCTION

“I set up my blow-air today.”

“Where?”

“In a shaft.”

“Go on...go on.”

“On the 12-Mile.”

“Your claim?”

“A Greek owns it...Dimitrios Skouras – Jim. Mavropoulos says he’s a goodboy. He also says he’s educated, because he carries a little dictionary around. He’s in his mid forties, I imagine. Lunches on olives and fetta.”

“Does he have a moustache?”

“Yes. Do you know him?”

“No, but with nourishment like that...”

“I could hardly believe the amount of trace in the shaft. Why isn’t someone else working the claim?”

“But if there was no trace...”

“I know, I know.”

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1974

OPAL: JIM (2): BASTERDS

“ROBERT, DID YOU DROP THE WASHING BASKET DOWN THE SHAFT?”

“Yes. Why you are so angry, *Georges*?”

“BECAUSE THE DRIVE’S MORE THAN 40 FT. DOWN. YOU SHOULD HAVE LOWERED THE BASKET. IT’S BURST AND THERE ARE SHOTS ALL OVER THE PLACE.”

“How angry, English man! I don’t forget Mers-el-Kébir.”

“He doesn’t sound English.”

“*Non...Non...* near to Oran in Algérie in the wartime.”

“Ah, north of where you come from, I think. Admiral Darlan refused to put the French fleet out of reach of the Germans. The British Navy had to sink it.”

“*Sink it, Old Sharp.* English basterds!”

Sharp? Oh, *chap*. “I’m sorry about your sailors, Robert, but the Germans might still be occupying France, otherwise.”

“English basterds!”

66

1974

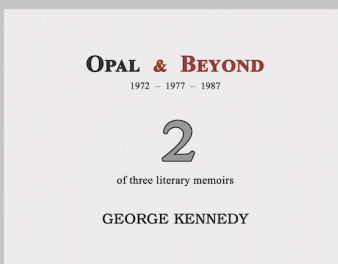
OPAL: JIM (3): TIME OFF

“Robert, you’ll be in charge of Franco-Tasmanian Global Enterprises tomorrow.”

“Where are you going, *Georges*?”

“Nowhere. I don’t need to be at the claim every day.”

“Remember yours *pourcentage*.”



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