



# Call of the Outback: The Remarkable Story of Ernestine Hill, Nomad, Adventurer and Trailblazer

By Marianne van Velzen

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## Call of the Outback: The Remarkable Story of Ernestine Hill, Nomad, Adventurer and Trailblazer By Marianne van Velzen

Long before Robyn Davidson wrote *Tracks*, the extraordinary Ernestine Hill was renowned for her intrepid travels across Australia's vast outback. After the birth of her illegitimate son, Ernestine Hill abandoned her comfortable urban life as a journalist for a nomadic one, writing about this country's vast interior and bringing the outback into the popular imagination of Australians. Throughout the 1930s Ernestine's hugely popular stories about Australia's remotest regions appeared in newspapers and journals around the nation. She still remains famous for her bestselling books *The Great Australian Loneliness*, *The Territory*, *Flying Doctor Calling*, and *My Love Must Wait*. *Call of the Outback* provides a vivid portrait of Ernestine, from the early brilliance she showed as a child in Brisbane to her later life. In particular it evokes Ernestine's larger-than-life personality, the exotic landscapes she explored, and the remarkable characters she met on her travels.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

The incredible life story of the original nomadic writer... Call of the Outback provides a vivid portrait of Ernestine, from the early brilliance she showed as a child in Brisbane to her later life. \* Queensland Times \* Marianne Van Velzen has captured Hill's extraordinary life \* Sunday Territorian \* With drama, amazing scenery and a clandestine love affair with a man from one of Australia's most prominent families, the story of Ernestine Hill is just waiting to make it to the big screen... a fascinating, entertaining yarn \* The Weekly Times \*

#### About the Author

**Marianne van Velzen** was a journalist and later an editor for prominent Dutch publisher Wegener Press. She has worked in radio and TV. She was involved in the research for *The Diamond Dakota Mystery*, and was also involved in the celebration of the 400 years of bilateral relationships between the Dutch and Australia. In 2007 she worked briefly as a freelance field producer for ABC television for the TV series *Can We Help?* In the Netherlands she has translated a number of plays into English. The play of well-known Dutch playwright Ger van Veen, *Milk and Honey*, was performed in New York at the end of 2008.

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