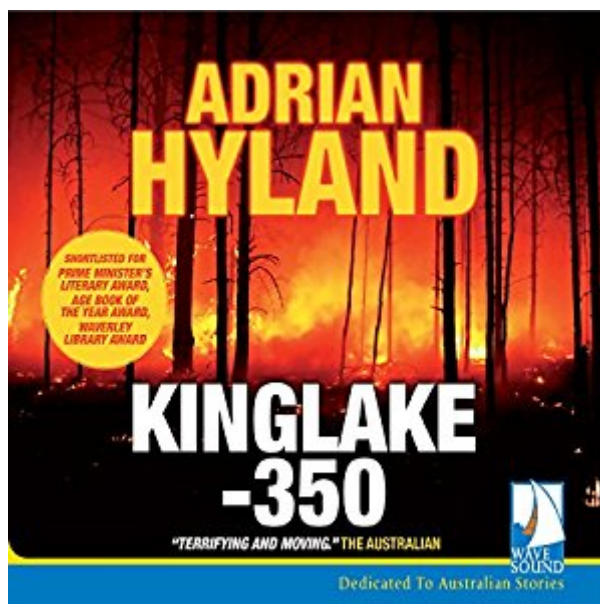


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Kinglake 350



Synopsis

On 7 February 2009, Roger Wood was the police officer in charge of Kinglake, at the epicentre of the worst ever bushfire disaster in Australia's history, Black Saturday. As the firestorm engulfed the community, he risked his life again and again to try to save people. When he phoned home to warn his wife what was coming, she screamed that the fire had already hit their property. Then the line went dead. This is a book about the monster - and the fear, grief, desolation and heroism of those who confronted it.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 37 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Wavesound Audio

Audible.com Release Date: April 7, 2016

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ASIN: B01D0ETF80

Best Sellers Rank: #53 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Australia & Oceania #862 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Nature #2502 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Law Enforcement

Customer Reviews

This is very compelling reading. The author describes the events of Black Saturday, February 7th 2009, that resulted in Australia's highest loss of life from bushfire. The bushfire of Black Saturday wasn't like any bushfire ever experienced before. Twelve years of drought and a three day heat wave of temperatures the week before had left the country in southern Victoria dry and ready to burn. On 7th February extreme conditions were predicted and with a total fire ban in place, everyone in fire prone areas was told to have their fire plans ready. A combination of a tropical low over WA and a monsoon trough in the NT pushing hot air south and a high pressure system sitting in the Tasman sea to the south of Victoria made for a lethal combination with hot air trapped over the south of the continent. The temperature in Melbourne that day reached 46.4C, the highest ever recorded and hot, dry NW winds gusted at over 100kph. When a fire started by fallen powerlines in Kilmore East it quickly spread and later combined with a second fire started at Murrindindi, to become the deadliest firestorm ever seen in post-European Australian history, killing 173 people

and destroying 2000 homes. The author, Adrian Hyland, lives in St Andrews, one of the towns affected by the bushfires and has carried out meticulous research on the events leading up to this bushfire and the reasons so many lives and properties were lost. Even reading the horrific accounts of those who lived through and survived the day it's hard to imagine what it was really like. Rather than trying to encompass all the events of that day the author has centred the story around Roger Wood, an experienced Senior Constable at Kinglake police station and describes the events of his horrific day trying to save lives and properties.

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