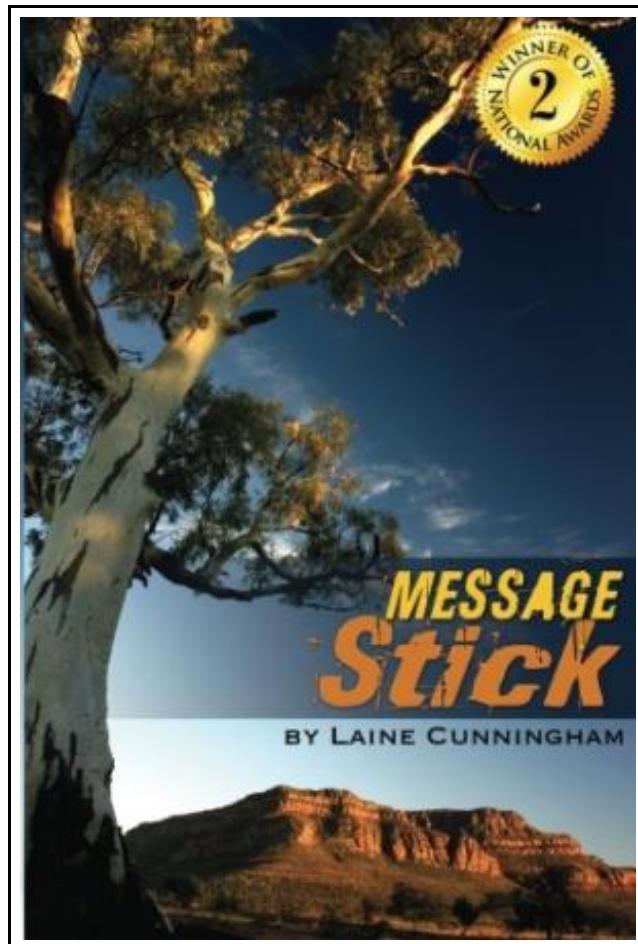


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THE FAMILY MADE OF DUST: A NOVEL OF LOSS AND REBIRTH IN THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK

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Sun Dogs Creations, United States, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. One of the best novels in ten years of running this contest. Hackney Literary Awards CommitteeIn this fast-paced suspense novel, Gabriel Branch leaves his home on the Queensland coast to search the rugged outback for his best friend. Although Gabe is a biracial Aboriginal, he lost all ties to his culture when the government forcibly removed him from his family when he was a child. Everything about the red desert seems alien including the artifact, a message stick, that is his only clue. While crisscrossing the unforgiving terrain he draws the attention of Dana Pukatja, a Pitjantjatjara shaman who runs the smuggling ring. Using his traditional knowledge and many tricks, he stalks Gabe to keep him from discovering the truth. As Gabe struggles with the loss of both his friend and his biological family, the shaman draws closer. The men clash on an arid plain of twisted mulga shrub far from any law except that of the outback itself. Message Stick provides a panoramic look at Australia, its land, its peoples and the social issues that continue to this day. The novel won two national awards and was supported by The Jerome Foundation, the New York Mills Cultural Center and Cornucopia Arts Center. Dreamtime tales, with their beautiful, spare styles and eternal lessons, are woven throughout Message Stick. Before writing this novel, Laine Cunningham spent six months camping in the outback with dingoes as her only companions. She has long been interested in mythology and folktales, and each of her novels weaves traditional stories from different cultures into modern plotlines. She has also written Seven Sisters, a collection of traditional Aboriginal tales that hold lessons...



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