

# Chris Hammer



Australian Author and Journalist

Genre: Australian Non-Fiction and Crime Fiction

<https://chrishammerauthor.com/>

Chris Hammer was a journalist for more than thirty years, dividing his career between covering Australian federal politics and international affairs. For many years he was a roving foreign correspondent for SBS TV's flagship current affairs program Dateline.

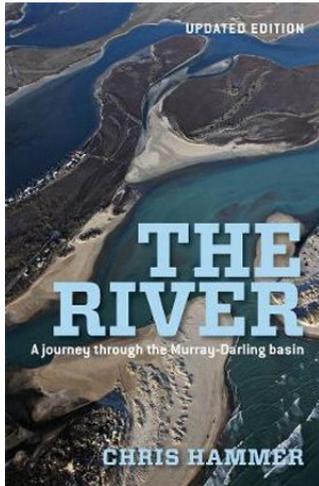
He has reported from more than 30 countries on six continents. In Canberra, roles included chief political correspondent for The Bulletin, current affairs correspondent for SBS TV and a senior political journalist for The Age.

Chris has written two non-fiction books *The River* (2010) and *The Coast* (2012), published by Melbourne University Press.

His first book, *The River*, published in 2010 to critical acclaim, was the recipient of the ACT Book of the Year Award and was shortlisted for the Walkley Book Award and the Manning Clark House National Cultural Award. It is a non-fiction account of the Murray-Darling River system

Chris has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Charles Sturt University and a master's degree in international relations from the Australian National University. He lives in Canberra with his wife, Dr Tomoko Akami. The couple have two children.

## Non-Fiction



### **The River: A Journey Through the Murray-Darling**

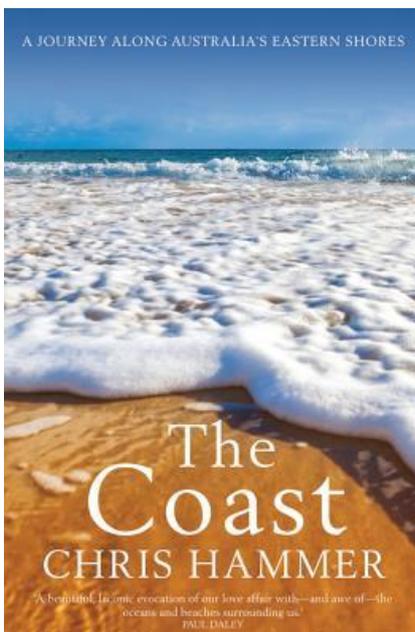
2010

Australia's major river system is collapsing. Parts of it are dying; parts of it are already dead. Australia's most significant river no longer reaches the sea. Ecosystems are dying, farmers are going to the wall, towns are emptying. I stand for a few moments longer on the jetty and look out into the dim autumn light and wonder once again how it has come to this.

In *The River*, Chris Hammer takes the reader on a journey through Australia's heartland, following the rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin, recounting his experiences, his impressions, and, above all, stories of the people he meets along the way. It's a journey punctuated with laughter, sadness, and reflection.

*The River* transports the reader past the daily news reports and their sterile statistics, revealing the true impact of our rivers' decline on the people who live along their shores, and on the country as a whole. It's a tale that leaves the reader with a lingering sense of nostalgia for an Australia that may be fading away forever.

### **The Coast: a Journey Along Australia's Eastern Shores**

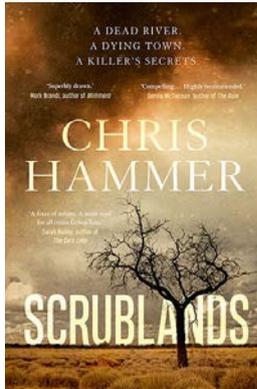


2013

A celebration of the Australian seascape—from its natural grandeur to the quirky individualism of those who live beside it—this is the heartfelt and pertinent story of the issues facing Australia's coast today and the resilience of its communities at a turning point. Traveling from the Torres Strait to Tasmania and from the showy beaches of Sydney to a beautiful village that endures despite the loss of its fishing fleet, this journey is imbued with a sense of optimism and humor. Even as new economic imperatives emerge and the shift in climate becomes apparent, this book revels in the heritage and character of Australia's shores.

## Fiction

### Scrublands



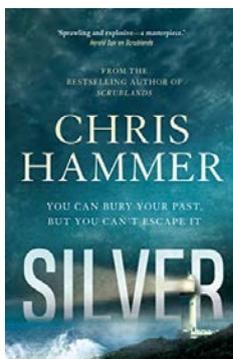
2018

Set in a fictional Riverina town at the height of a devastating drought, *Scrublands* is one of the most powerful, compelling and original crime novels to be written in Australia. Winner of the 2019 CWA Dagger New Blood Award for Best First Crime Novel

In an isolated country town brought to its knees by endless drought, a charismatic and dedicated young priest calmly opens fire on his congregation, killing five parishioners before being shot dead himself. A year later, troubled journalist Martin Scarsden arrives in Riversend to write a feature on the anniversary of the tragedy. But the stories he hears from the locals about the priest and incidents leading up to the shooting don't fit with the accepted version of events his own newspaper reported. Martin can't ignore his doubts, nor the urgings of some locals to unearth the real reason behind the priest's deadly rampage.

Just as Martin believes he is making headway, a shocking new development rocks the town, which becomes the biggest story in Australia. The media descends on Riversend and Martin is now the one in the spotlight. His reasons for investigating the shooting have suddenly become very personal. Wrestling with his own demons, Martin finds himself risking everything to discover a truth that becomes darker and more complex with every twist. But there are powerful forces determined to stop him, and he has no idea how far they will go to make sure the town's secrets stay buried.

### Silver



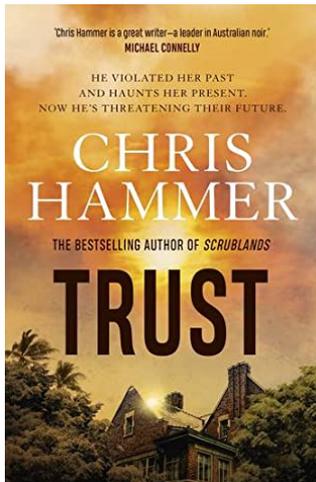
2019

For half a lifetime, journalist Martin Scarsden has run from his past. But now there is no escaping. He'd vowed never to return to his hometown, Port Silver, and its traumatic memories. But now his new partner, Mandy Blonde, has inherited an old house in the seaside town and Martin knows their chance of a new life together won't come again.

Martin arrives to find his best friend from school days brutally murdered, and Mandy the chief suspect. With the police curiously reluctant to pursue other suspects, Martin goes searching for the killer. And finds the past waiting for him. He's making little progress when a terrible new crime starts to reveal the truth. The media descend on Port Silver, attracted by a story that has it all: sex, drugs, celebrity and religion. Once again, Martin finds himself in the front line of reporting. Yet the demands of deadlines and his desire to clear Mandy are not enough: the past is ever present.

## New Release for 2020

### Trust



2020

He violated her past and haunts her present.

Now he's threatening their future. She breathes deeply, trying to quell the rising sense of panic. A detective came to her home, drugged her and kidnapped her. She tries to make sense of it, to imagine alternatives, but only one conclusion is possible: it's her past come to claim her.

Martin Scarsden's new life seems perfect, right up until the moment it's shattered by a voicemail: a single scream, abruptly cut off, from his partner Mandaly Blonde. Racing home, he finds an unconscious man sprawled on the floor and Mandy gone. Someone has abducted her. But who, and why?

So starts a twisting tale of intrigue and danger, as Martin probes the past of the woman he loves, a woman who has buried her former life so deep she has never mentioned it.

And for the first time, Mandy finds denial impossible, now the body of a mystery man has been discovered, a man whose name she doesn't know, a man she was engaged to marry when he died. It's time to face her demons once and for all; it's time she learned how to trust.

Set in a Sydney riven with corruption and nepotism, privilege and power, Trust is the third riveting novel from award-winning and internationally acclaimed writer Chris Hammer.

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6474729.Chris\\_Hammer](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6474729.Chris_Hammer)

Interview with *Booktopia*

<https://bit.ly/3iGa1zH>

Interview with *The Guardian*

<https://bit.ly/2FMkKd8>