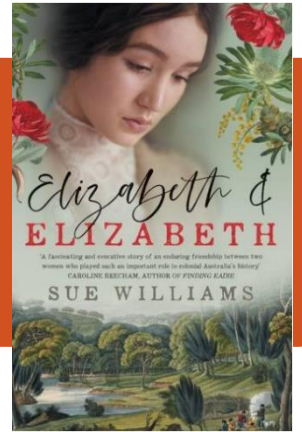




Elizabeth & Elizabeth

Sue Williams



Author Background

Sue Williams is a bestselling author and award-winning journalist, working in newspapers, magazines and TV in Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Born in England, but settling in Australia in 1989, she's also a travel writer and university lecturer.

Her books include *Getting There: Journeys of an Accidental Adventurer*; the story of her travels around isolated Australia, *Welcome to the Outback*; and a series of other books about the outback, *Women in the Outback*, *Outback Spirit* and *Outback Heroines*. She's also written biographies of Father Chris Riley, *Mean Streets*, *Kind Hearts*; Father Bob Maguire, *Father Bob: The Larrikin Priest*; navy diver Paul de Gelder, *No Time For Fear*; Fred Brophy, *The Last Showman*; and Australia's youngest Everest climber Alyssa Azar, *The Girl Who Climbed Everest*.

Sue's true-crime book *And Then The Darkness: The Disappearance of Peter Falconio and the Trials of Joanne Lees* was shortlisted for the international 2006 Gold Dagger Award for the world's best crime non-fiction. Her first children's book was *Everest Dreaming*.

Sue lives in Sydney's Kings Cross with her partner, writer Jimmy Thomson.

Book Summary

There was a short time in Australia's European history when two women wielded extraordinary power and influence behind the scenes of the fledgling colony.

One was Elizabeth Macquarie, the wife of the new governor Lachlan Macquarie, nudging him towards social reform and magnificent buildings and town planning. The other was Elizabeth Macarthur, credited with creating Australia's wool industry and married to John Macarthur, a dangerous enemy of the establishment.

They should have been bitter foes. *Elizabeth & Elizabeth* is about two courageous women thrown together in impossible times.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What did you like best about this book? What did you like least about this book?
- ❖ How well do you think the author brought to life the new colony and its characters in the book?
- ❖ What do you think the author's purpose was in writing this book? What ideas were they trying to get across?
- ❖ How does *Elizabeth & Elizabeth* compare to other historical fiction you've read?
- ❖ Do you think Sue Williams acknowledged first Australians sufficiently in the book? If yes, how did she do this? If no, how could she have done this better?
- ❖ What do you think were the respective Elizabeth's greatest contributions in growing Australia's fledgling colony?
- ❖ Do you think Betsey's naivety was believable?
- ❖ Do you think Elizabeth Macarthur's duty to her husband influenced her loyalty to her friend Betsey? Why or why not?
- ❖ Whilst the two Elizabeths are very different, what things did they have in common and what made their friendship last? What attracted them to each other?
- ❖ History often views women as an extension of their husbands. Do you think *Elizabeth & Elizabeth* challenges that view?

References

- ❖ Allen and Unwin + Group Reading Notes pdf: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/fiction/Elizabeth-and-Elizabeth-Sue-Williams-9781760631345>
- ❖ Book Riot: <https://www.bookriot.com.au>