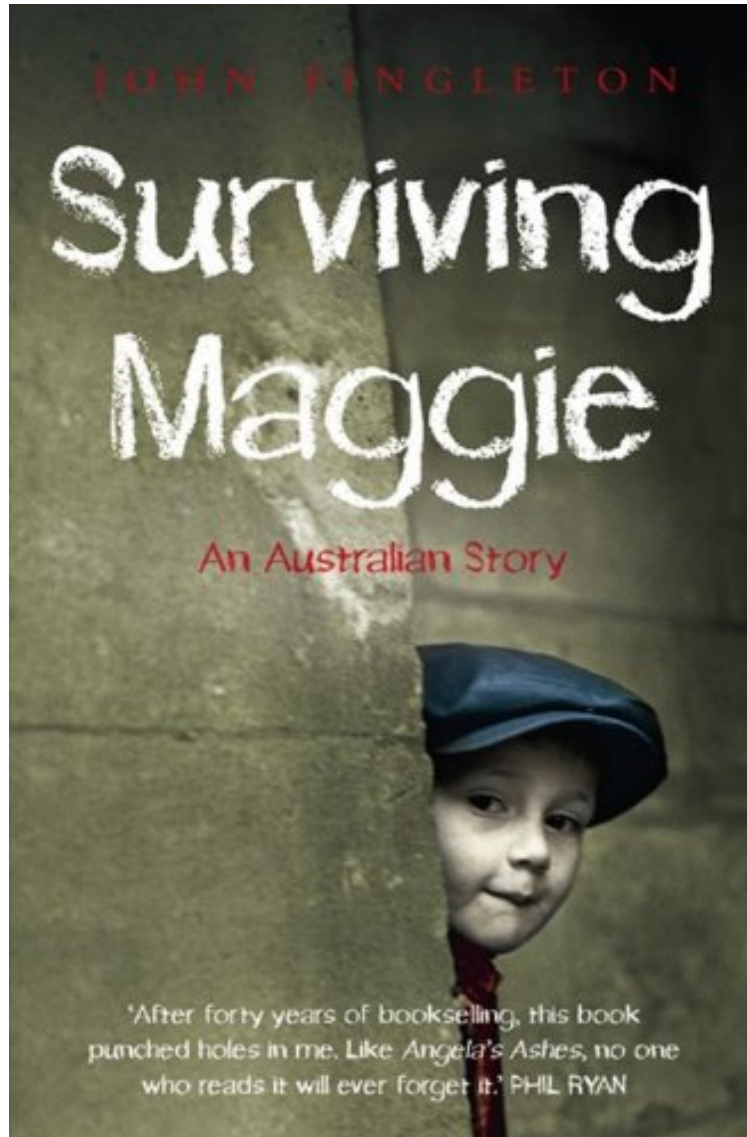


## Surviving Maggie

John Fingleton

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#5320394 in Books 2013-07-23 2013-07-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.21 x .98 x 5.98l, .75 #File Name: 0732293596304 pages | File size: 38.Mb

**John Fingleton : Surviving Maggie** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Surviving Maggie:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Surviving Maggie- My opinionBy JoshWas curious about his book after watching the Aussie film "swimming Upstream" by this authors brother (Anthony) where he depicts a quite unfortunate childhood with a dad that drinks, hits and threatens his family and ends up drawing a wedge between two sweet brothers who are forced to compete against each other. But enough of that other story, this is written by son John

and it is quite a stirring, and I may add, compassionate account of how his father grew up: an orphan having to look out for himself at the tender age of 12 and his adventures/ troubles making a life for himself. Describing a bygone era of the Australian frontier before the major cities exploded into their contemporary sizes, he invites us into scenes of brawling men in pubs and brawny factory workers struggling to create a home for themselves on foreign soil. After reading this, one gains much sympathy for this character and will be quite taken by his resilience, doggedness, and will to survive ultimately rising above adversity to create a family for himself. It is written well and is truly a required read for anyone already interested in this family from the "Swimming Upstream" movie and book. The authors desire to delve into his fathers past and uncover a history that turned a troubled fatherless boy into a self-sustaining man whom for many years supported a growing family under trying times is commendable and shows a great sense of maturity, allowing one to rise above the terrible scars of youth and look at a man called Father seeing him from an adults perspective; Yes, both courage and guts. Recommended reading. Larger than average print makes it easy on eyes and ultimately makes it a smaller read than many other memoirs. Kuddos to John Fingleton.

The powerful true story of a man who would inspire one son to make a film about him, starring Geoffrey Rush, and the other to uncover his past, warts and all, in this unforgettable tale. "My father was no ordinary man and his was no ordinary life ..." Watching Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush portray his father in the film *Swimming Upstream* inspired John Fingleton to uncover the story no one had told, of his father's mysterious early life - and what made Harold the extraordinary man he became. Nothing could have prepared him for what he discovered. Harold spent his early childhood on the streets foraging for food for himself and his sister and being beaten for his trouble by his alcoholic mother. Then, at eleven, Harold was removed to a state orphanage in Brisbane, where the treatment he and others endured haunted him forever. From abused child to rebellious orphan, Harold Fingleton played many roles in his life - larrikin street fighter, gifted sportsman, prisoner, alcoholic, football coach to a bunch of street kids, even a murder suspect - but, most importantly, a man transformed by the love of a strong woman into a father determined his children would have the opportunities he never had. A powerful true story of love, betrayal and redemption, *Surviving Maggie* will stay with you long after the last page. 'After forty years of bookselling, this book punched holes in me. Like ANGELA'S ASHES, no one who reads this story will ever forget it.' Phil Ryan (veteran bookseller, formerly of Mary Ryans)

About the Author John Fingleton was born in Brisbane in 1943. A champion swimmer, he won twelve medals at national swimming and surf lifesaving championships in the early 1960s. The film *Swimming Upstream*, written and co-produced by his brother, Tony, and starring Geoffrey Rush as his father Harold, became the impetus for *Surviving Maggie*, his first book. John lives in Chipping Norton, Sydney. His brother Tony is now a successful screenwriter in the US and his sister Helen is a former Queensland Magistrates Court judge and author.