



Storytellers: questions, answers and the craft of journalism By Leigh, Sales.

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Genre and Subject

Journalism — Australia
Interviews

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Synopsis

Leigh Sales is one of Australia's most accomplished journalists, having anchored the ABC's flagship 7.30 program for twelve years. She has been a foreign correspondent, hosted Lateline and anchored numerous elections for the ABC. In this book, she turns her interviewing skills onto her own profession, those usually asking the questions: the journalists.

In ten sections – from News Reporting to Editing, via Investigative, Commentary and of course Interviewing – Sales takes us on a tour of the profession, letting the leaders in their field talk direct to us about how they get their leads, survive in war zones, write a profile, tell a story with pictures, and keep the show on the road. A who's-who of Australian journalism – including Lisa Millar, Kate McClymont, Hedley Thomas, Trent Dalton, Benjamin Law, Tracy Grimshaw, Richard Fidler, David Speers, Stan Grant, Niki Savva, Waleed Aly, Annabel Crabb, Karl Stefanovic and Mia Freedman – talk candidly about their greatest lessons and their trade secrets.

A fascinating insight into a vital and much-misunderstood profession, Storytellers is a book for anyone who's ever wanted to be a journalist, or even just wondered how the news gets made.

Author Biography

Leigh Sales AM is one of Australia's most respected journalists. As the new presenter of Australian Story and the recent host of the ABC's flagship current affairs program, 7.30, she has interviewed dozens of world leaders and celebrities, including Hillary Clinton, Tony Blair, the Dalai Lama, Paul McCartney, Elton John, Harrison Ford, Tom Hanks, Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood and Bill Gates. She has interviewed every living Australian Prime Minister, as well as the late Bob Hawke, and has anchored the last three federal elections for the ABC. Leigh is the winner of three Walkley Awards, Australia's highest journalism honour; the author of the books Detainee 002, On Doubt, Well Hello and the bestselling Any Ordinary Day; and the co-host of the popular podcast Chat 10 Looks 3 with Annabel Crabb. In 2023, her service to journalism and the community was recognised with an honorary doctorate from Edith Cowan University.

Discussion Starters

1. Did this book make you want to explore the subject matter more?
2. What were your impressions on the author's style? Did you find the book easy to read, or a slog?
3. Of all the information presented in the book, what has stayed with you the most?
4. What did you Google while reading the book?
5. Did you agree with the author's conclusions? Where did you deviate?
6. How would you describe the book in one sentence? What is the main point or purpose of the book?
7. What are some of the questions or criticisms you have about the book? How would you challenge or debate the author's claims or arguments?
8. How did the book change your opinion or perspective on the topic? Did it confirm or contradict any of your assumptions or expectations?
9. What was the most memorable or impactful story, anecdote, or example in the book? Why did it stand out to you?
10. What was the most surprising or shocking thing you learned from the book? How did it make you feel?
11. How did the author engage and persuade you as a reader in the book?
12. How did the author's choice of how to frame and organize the book impact its effectiveness for you?
13. How did the author address any counter arguments or criticisms in the book? Did they acknowledge any limitations, gaps, or biases in their research or writing? Did you find their arguments convincing?
14. What are some of the ethical, moral, or social implications of the book? How does it challenge or support your values or beliefs?
15. Did the book inspire you to take action, change your behavior, or think differently about something?
16. What are some of the limitations or biases of the book? How does it reflect the author's background, perspective, or agenda?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

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- The season by Helen, Garner.

Author biography from <https://www.simonandschuster.com.au/books/Storytellers/Leigh-Sales/9781761106965>