



# Last Woman Hanged

*Caroline Overington*

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## **Last Woman Hanged** Caroline Overington

One woman. Two husbands. Four trials. One bloody execution. The last woman hanged in NSW.

Winner of the 2015 Davitt Award for Best Crime Book (Non-fiction).

In January 1889, Louisa Collins, a 41-year-old mother of ten children, became the first woman hanged at Darlinghurst Gaol and the last woman hanged in New South Wales. Both of Louisa's husbands died suddenly and the Crown, convinced that Louisa poisoned them with arsenic, put her on trial an extraordinary four times in order to get a conviction, to the horror of many in the legal community. Louisa protested her innocence until the end. Now, in **LAST WOMAN HANGED**, writer and journalist Caroline Overington delves into the archives to re-examine the original, forensic reports, court documents, judges notebooks, witness statements and police and gaol records, in an effort to discover the truth.

Much of the evidence against Louisa was circumstantial. Some of the most important testimony was given by her only daughter, May, who was just 10-years-old when asked to take the stand. The historical context is also important: Louisa Collins was hanged at a time when women were in no sense equal under the law - except when it came to the gallows. Women could not vote or stand for parliament - or sit on juries. there were no female politicians and no women judges. Against this background, a small group of women rose up to try to save Louisa's life, arguing that a legal system comprised only of men - male judges, all-male jury, male prosecutor, governor and Premier - could not with any integrity hang a woman. The tenacity of these women would not save Louisa but it would ultimately carry women from their homes all the way to Parliament House.

Less than 15 years after Louisa was hanged, Australian women would become some of the first in the world to get the vote. they would take seats in State parliament, and in Canberra. they would become doctors, lawyers, judges, premiers - even the Prime Minister.

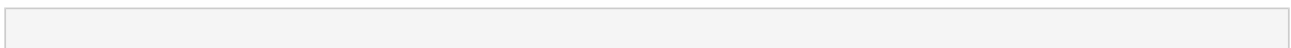
Caroline says: 'My hope is that **LAST WOMAN HANGED** will be read not only as a true crime story but as a letter of profound thanks to that generation of women who fought so hard for the rights we still enjoy today.'

### Praise for **LAST WOMAN HANGED**

'The story she tells ... is a useful challenge to any tendency to simple moral indignation' - Beverley Kingston, *Sydney Morning Herald*

'This is a fascinating book, a terrific read, and an excellent reminder of who tells the stories, and whose stories are forgotten' - Frances Rand, *South Coast Register*

'... what's ... interesting is Caroline Overington's even-handed appraisal of Collins's alleged crime(s) that led her to become the last woman hanged in New South Wales in 1889' - *Launceston Sunday Examiner*



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#### **Carrie Wakefield:**

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Last Woman Hanged, you could enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

#### **Nancy Garcia:**

Within this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you should do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to experience a look at some books. Among the books in the top listing in your reading list is Last Woman Hanged. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upward and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

#### **Robert Hutzler:**

As we know that book is important thing to add our expertise for everything. By a e-book we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a pair of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This e-book Last Woman Hanged was filled in relation to science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your research competence. Some people has different feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can feel enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book you wanted.

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