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The Commandant: Text Classics

Jessica Anderson

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'He jumped down to the wharf and walked alone out of the torchlight to stand behind Letty. Frances looked from his face to her sister's, and once again felt the weakening flush of fear. She was too much at the mercy of her company, and was about to discover which of her unpredictable selves would advance to meet these two strangers.'

The penal colony of Moreton Bay is under the command of Patrick Logan, a man not afraid of brutal discipline. But his rule is being questioned and the arrival of his sister-in-law Frances will change everything.

The Commandant, with an introduction by Carmen Callil, is an unforgettable tale of power, duty and humanity.

'Quietly astonishing: enthrals, entertains and gratifies on every level.' Helen Garner

Jessica Anderson was born in Gayndah, Queensland, in 1916. Anderson wrote stories and adapted novels for radio before she published her first novel, *An Ordinary Lunacy*, in 1963. In 1978, she won the Miles Franklin Literary Award for *Tirra Lirra by the River*, and again in 1980 for *The Impersonators*, which also won the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction. In 1987 her story collection, *Stories from the Warm Zone*, won the *Age* Book of the Year award.

Carmen Callil founded Virago Press in 1972 and later became managing director of Chatto & Windus and the Hogarth Press. Since 1995 she has worked as a writer and critic. She is the author of *Bad Faith: A Forgotten History of Family and Fatherland*, and co-author, with Colm Toibin, of *The Modern Library: The 200 Best Novels in English since 1950*.

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