

Chapter 1 : Picnic at Hanging Rock () - IMDb

'The Secret of Hanging Rock' - not to be confused with 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' (Joan Lindsay) is reputedly the lost or excised final chapter from that novel. Whilst seemingly left to Lindsay's literary agent for publication after her death (for the purpose of explaining the mystery and.

Set in , Picnic at Hanging Rock tells the story of three Australian boarding school girls who inexplicably vanish on a field trip to a remote and historic landmark, the Hanging Rock. While the surface level plot is about figuring out what happened, the answers always remain inscrutable – inviting only more questions. Is the culprit supernatural, allegorical, or an ugly reality? And the stunning recently released Amazon miniseries might win the award for most mystifying finale of all. But the starring actors like former Game of Thrones and Hunger Games star Natalie Dormer and showrunner Larysa Kondracki still have several of their own personal, illuminating interpretations. Both Natalie Dormer the tragic and lethal governess of College Appleyard and Lily Sullivan the mesmerizingly enigmatic leader of the missing girls see the story as speaking to the human folly of even needing definitive answers. Picnic at Hanging Rock is a cautionary tale about societies so afraid of uncertainty that they demand conformity to social norms. To be free, this story says, we must embrace the unknowability and complexity of human existence. As a reimagining of the book, Kondracki emphasized that the Amazon miniseries is "not so much about what happened to the girls – but who were they? Why did they want to run away in the first place? According to the book In the first draft of the book, Lindsay included a final chapter with an explicit explanation of what happened. Her editor astutely suggested removing it. It explained that records of the disappearances were all mysteriously burned in a bush fire. Regardless, the search for the girls continued – though only a piece of a dress was ever found. In it, we get our "answer. The TL;DR is that the girls fall into a trance before entering a "hole in space. Irma, however, gets prevented from following when a boulder blocks the path, leading her to eventually return to reality. The beautiful mysteries at the core of "Picnic at Hanging Rock" Image: The real-life Hanging Rock located outside of Melbourne is believed to have originally been a meeting place for three different bordering tribes, and a site of ceremonial importance. Each character represents an archetype of who Mrs. Inventions of her mind that die with her. Similarly, in the very last shots where Mrs. Appleyard is about to jump off the peak of the Hanging Rock, the camera swivels away from the three missing girls and back at Mrs. When she leaps, they disappear – implying that they too were inventions of her mind that die with her. Sullivan sees how interpretations of her character, Miranda, also supports this. Many view her as less of a traditional character, and more of a metaphor. Appleyard commits suicide One commonality between all three versions of the story is Mrs. Though, she admitted, "bless her: Appleyard "is profoundly traumatized and lacks any ability to process it. And it results in so many deaths around her that she cannot reconcile herself with. You can choose to either break the cycle or perpetuate it," she said. Appleyard unfortunately chose the wrong path. And I think we can all identify. There are even subtle clues in the Amazon miniseries to support some of the most wacky ideas that gained traction in the s. It was aliens, naturally. The secrets beneath the perfect appearances of "Picnic at Hanging Rock" Image: In the final shots of the Amazon adaptation, the clouds around the Hanging Rock swirl oddly, tinging everything in a blinding red hue. As the music reaches a fever pitch, you can even hear the faint sound of a large mechanical machine, like a spaceship. What happened to the girls in Picnic at Hanging Rock? The point is we cannot know. But everyone necessarily projects what they need to believe happened on them.

Chapter 2 : What Really Happened to the Girls at Hanging Rock? | Literary Hub

Picnic at Hanging Rock is an Australian historical fiction novel by Joan calendrierdelascience.com in , it is about a group of female students at an Australian girls' boarding school who vanish at Hanging Rock while on a Valentine's Day picnic, and the effects the disappearances have on the school and local community.

This publication has a chapter titled Chapter Eighteen that is supposedly the original last chapter of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. The official story is that the original publishers of *Picnic at Hanging Rock* thought the novel was better without Chapter 18 and it was decided to leave it out. Can anyone confirm this, I wonder? The general public did not know of its existence. Chapter 18 takes up about 12 of these. The remaining pages taken up by an introduction, a chapter by John Taylor who owns the copyright to Chapter 18 , and a commentary by Yvonne Rousseau. The book is more like a booklet, with quite large text, so Chapter 18 is really more like about 6 pages of normal text. Summary of Chapter Edith runs off as the other girls push on through the dogwoods. Irma looks down to the plain and describes the people looking like ants. As the girls walk past the monolith they have some sort of supernatural sensation of being pulled "inside out" and of being dizzy. They walk on past the monolith where they lay down and fall asleep. A woman comes crashing through the undergrowth and falls down amongst the girls. She is not wearing a dress, just her under-garments. The girls all decide to get out of their corsets. Miss McCraw points out that the corsets seem to be magically hanging in space besides them not at the bottom of the cliff. Miss McCraw suggests that the corsets are "stuck fast in time". Miss McCraw suggests that they all "go on". Miss McCraw suffers giddiness momentarily. They all see a "hole in space", some sort of mystical supernatural phenomenon. A little brown snake appears and disappears down a crack in the rock. Miranda and Marion try to find the snake. Miss McCraw suggests that she "goes first" down the crack in the rock to follow the snake. Miss McCraw magically transforms into a small creature like a lizard and crawls into the crack and disappears. Marion, and then Miranda, performs the same "magic" transformation and disappears down the crack. One of the large boulders slowly tilts over and covers the hole where Miss McCraw and the two girls have gone. Irma is left by herself. She is "tearing and beating at the gritty face on the boulder with her bare hands".

Chapter 3 : Picnic at Hanging Rock – McKenzie Solutions

The Secret of Hanging Rock was first published in Australia by Angus & Robertson Publishers in This was about twenty years after Picnic at Hanging Rock was published, and a few years after the death of it's author Joan Lindsay.

May 08, The re-creation of the film by Peter Weir is one of the most highly-anticipated Australian television events of the year and boasts a seriously impressive cast: Picnic At Hanging Rock has long been shrouded in mystery. But is the plot – an eerie re-telling of a tragic event – based on a true story? Some say yes, some say no. In the lead-up to the premiere this May, we investigate the truth behind the story, and some of the disturbing and downright scary things that have happened along the way. The boarding school, and surrounding town, descends into chaos. The public and the police force organise several searches; Irma, one of the missing girls, is found unconscious but unharmed at the rock; students are withdrawn from the school; teachers and staff quit unexpectedly; a schoolgirl commits suicide in a mysterious manner; the headmistress jumps off Hanging Rock, killing herself. None of the missing women are ever found. A biography of the author, some years later, revealed that the first draft of the book originally included a final chapter that explained the disappearances. She faints, and is later revived by one of the girls loosening her corset to let her breathe. The rest of the girls throw their own corsets off the cliff, but point out that they stop in mid-air and cast no shadows. The girls then follow a lizard into a crack in the rock, described as "a hole in space. It is acknowledge that the crack in the rock is a timewarp, and that the missing girls are in another dimension. The times are wrong, however. Similarly, Easter Sunday was on April 15th that year, not March 29th. In fact, the book and movie drove such interest that Yvonne Rousseau wrote a book, The Murders at Hanging Rock, about possible solutions and answers. The author of the original book, Joan Lindsay, was the subject of a biography, investigating how she came to write the book and whether it had any basis in fact. The author of that biography, Janelle McCulloch, notes that some students who attended the school the book is based on believe that the crimes did occur, and that the stories might have based on a case of two girls who went missing around s. Time stops Aside from some historical evidence, there was some paranormal history, too. A producer told the Telegraph the same happened on set: Mine stopped at 6pm on the rock to ask the time became quite a joke. Lindsay, who had been to Hanging Rock in her childhood, said the dream felt so real she woke up. But another type of sense might have gone into the plot.

Chapter 4 : A Strong Belief in Wicker: The Secret of Hanging Rock

Joan Lindsay's classic novel Picnic at Hanging Rock is a subtle blend of mysterious and sinister events set in a period of Australian social life drawn with loving nostalgia.

Book cover, first edition. Cheshire The year was , the place southeastern Australia. A class of young women from a private boarding school, along with several chaperones, visited a scenic landmark in the country called Hanging Rock for a picnic. What happened that day has become a curious mixture of fact, fiction, and fantasy. The story holds that in a series of strange, almost dreamlike episodes, several of the girls went missing and were never seen again. Others went into inexplicable hysterics, and still others lost their memories of what had happened. By the end of the tale, two of the girls and one teacher were never seen again, and a third girl appeared to have taken her own life. The story became widely known in a novelization, which was soon made into a feature film, both titled Picnic at Hanging Rock. Hanging Rock is a small volcanic formation about 50 kilometers northwest of Melbourne, Australia. In the midst of a broad green plain checkered with farmlands and vineyards stands a m tall bump of rock, the result of an ancient bulge of magma that rose and cracked and split apart. These spires and pinnacles and other formations are wreathed with forestry, and are popular with hikers, climbers, and photographers. The most famous formation is Hanging Rock, a large boulder that fell and jammed between two steep walls that you can now walk beneath and marvel up at. Mystery is a common theme at the park. Some visitors even report haunted encounters with the ghosts of the missing girls. Like many other landmarks in Australia, Hanging Rock had been a sacred ceremonial site for Aboriginals, and thus it carried with it a theme of mysticism. Australian author Joan Lindsay was inspired by the place, and particularly by the juxtaposition of ancient spiritualism and modern colonial immigrants. Using this theme, she invented and wrote a novel, in only a single month, in which sophisticated upper class Europeans became trapped in a fanciful world in which they were, both literally and metaphorically, swallowed up by the ancient Earth. Yes, Picnic at Hanging Rock and the story that it tells are now, and have been ever since they were written, complete fiction. Our task today is to understand how and why a fictional story came to be perceived as fact. A fourth girl, Edith, is in some sort of hysterics and reports that she saw the girls disappear into a cleft in the rocks, and also that she saw Miss McGraw inexplicably climbing the rock in her underwear. Men searched for several days, and finally found Irma alive four days later but with no memory of what had happened; strange, since Hanging Rock is small enough that it could easily be searched quite quickly. Where had Irma been? At the college, a girl who was not allowed to attend the picnic takes her own life. Flashbacks and missing time characterized her narrative, and the tragedy itself was foreshadowed by two characters whose watches stopped at exactly the same moment. Time was what separated the colonials from the Aboriginals. This culture clash is something that many Australians feel keenly, and it may well be responsible for why so many people have sought fact in the legend, to better confront their own place in an ancient land. Lindsay did her own part to start the rumors that the book was based on fact. Whether Picnic at Hanging Rock is fact or fiction, my readers must decide for themselves. As the fateful picnic took place in the year , and all the characters who appear in this book are long since dead, it hardly seems important. Near the end of the book she also referenced a newspaper article from about the disappearances. And so from the moment the book came out, there was broad speculation that it may have been based on a true story. Independent researchers tried to verify some of its facts, such as whether the school named in the book Appleyard College was real or not. Newspapers from the period were combed to see if any disappearances or deaths happened at Hanging Rock around What really stirred the pot was the publication of The Murders at Hanging Rock by Australian science fiction author Yvonne Rousseau. Although she prefaced her book with a statement that Picnic at Hanging Rock was fiction, she then went on to offer five possible explanations for the disappearances, since Lindsay had given none at all. That everything happened in some sort of parallel universe where time was slightly offset, thus accounting for why the bodies were never found, and explaining a major factual error in the original book. Lindsay had set her story on Saturday, February 14, However this date was actually a Wednesday. A confusing suggestion that an alternate dimension was somehow involved. A

supernatural event of some kind must have taken place. That it turns out to have been a conventional murder. The two teenage boys in the story, stable hand Albert and Michael, who was obsessed with Miranda, beat and raped and murdered Miranda, Marion, and Miss McGraw; but Irma escaped, having been beaten to the point of amnesia. Although the first four explanations have never gained much traction outside of the New Age community who still frequent Hanging Rock with crystals and robes, the murder story did take root. Among the many visitors who come to the rock today and ask the rangers about the mystery, it turns out that most of them have heard that the girls were murdered. Finally, Joan Lindsay did eventually spoil her own party. As published, *Picnic at Hanging Rock* has seventeen chapters. But the first version submitted to her publisher had eighteen, and an editorial decision was made to cut out the final chapter which explained what happened with the girls, as it was felt that the mystery stood better without a solution. Lindsay left the manuscript with instructions that it be published three years after her death, and it was, in *The whole chapter is ethereal and dreamlike. Miranda, Marion, and Irma are napping atop the rock. In a gesture symbolic of burning the bridge from their previous culture, all four remove their corsets and throw them off the rock, but for some reason they hang suspended in midair. The girls follow a snake that descends into a strange hole. Miss McGraw magically transforms herself into a small half-crab, half-lizard thing and disappears down the hole after the snake. Marion does the same. Finally, Miranda makes the same transformation, goes down the hole, and a rock falls and permanently seals it off. If the bizarre ending had been left intact, the book may have been a more fulfilling commentary from a metaphorical point of view, but it almost certainly would never have gained the popularity that the shortened version did. Mysteries crave solutions, and those mysteries that remain unsolved are the ones that perpetuate the craving. And this is exactly why so many people want *Picnic at Hanging Rock* to be a true story:*

Chapter 5 : The end of Amazon's 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' explained

In the excised chapter (published in '87 as The Secret of Hanging Rock), the missing girls are at the rock, Edith runs back to the group, and a mysterious woman in her underwear shouts at them, "Through!" The woman is sometimes references as being Ms McCraw, although none of the girls recognise her.

When I first read that, I wondered which of the girls Dormer would play. Appleyard, and I felt very old. Everything about Picnic at Hanging Rock challenges our assumptions about time. The author was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1917. The novel was her first, written in four weeks when she was 70, and it became a sensation. The picnic grounds are wild and glowing, populated with lizards, beetles, grubs, and hidden snakes. When director Peter Weir went to discuss the film rights for his adaptation, he was warned not to ask if something had really happened, but he did anyway. So Weir asked if the question of what occurred was open-ended. Could they have fallen down a hole or been abducted by aliens? She said yes, it could have been any of the above. Others had the same two oddly linked questions: People searched old local newspapers in vain for mention of missing girls. In 1987, Yvonne Rousseau published *The Murders at Hanging Rock*, examining all the competing theories, including a parallel universe, UFO abduction, and a gruesome murder committed by two young men, leaving no trace. Australians read the book in school and became obsessed with the mystery. Her publishers told her to cut it, so she did. But when she was 84, she gave the chapter to Taylor to be published after her death. They take off their corsets and throw them off a cliff, and the corsets hang in the air. They enter another dimension and never return. You can see why the publishers told Lindsay to get rid of the ending. The earthly mystery is what gives the novel its impact. Hints of the final chapter remain: Anne-Louise Lambert, the actress who played Miranda in the film, was asked about her process and her motivation, and said she imagined that her character had stepped into a kind of wormhole. Joan Lindsay herself lived a sort of time warp, born under the reign of Queen Victoria and publishing her first novel during the Vietnam War. Penguin Classics has reissued the book and Amazon has picked up the series. After 50 years, a story about getting lost still has the ability to take us in and send us back transformed.

Chapter 6 : Hanging Rock Victoria Melbourne - Visit Macedon Ranges

The Secret of Hanging Rock: The final chapter of 'Picnic at Hanging Rock'. With an introduction by John Taylor and a commentary by Yvonne Rousseau. Buy with confidence from one of Australia's oldest bookshops established in

Vivid Publishing, Fremantle, pp. During the afternoon three members of the party disappeared without a trace. In , a group of archaeologists are excavating the interior of a rockshelter when they discover a narrow opening blocked by a fallen slab of stone. Within this cavern, they discover human skeletons—are these the remains of the missing girls Miranda St Clare, Marion Quade and their governess Miss Greta McCraw, or has the archaeological team uncovered something else? The reader alternates, chapter by chapter, from the nineteenth century investigations that occurred immediately following the disappearance of the girls with a particular focus on an inquest in August , to the potential discovery of their remains by a team of archaeologists in . While an excellent tool for providing background to readers unfamiliar with the history of Hanging Rock, each time period could arguably be a stand-alone story—there are no links other than the topic of the missing girls to bring each time period together into a directly cohesive storyline. As a fictional novel, Watchman had the potential to tie the two time periods inexorably together, perhaps by inserting clues or unanswered questions during the inquest mystery artefacts, perhaps , which the archaeologists uncover and resolve during their investigations. Initially, the chapters are kept very short, which, coupled with different writing styles for each time period, created a somewhat uneven tone. The flashbacks are told from the point of view of Michael Fitzhurbert, who was present at Hanging Rock the day the girls went missing and became integral in their search in the week following their disappearance. These flashbacks present an eloquent reimagining of the day the girls disappeared, the experiences of those involved in the search and the August inquest that followed. This style of writing is in stark contrast to the archaeological investigations, where language is very casual and occasionally feels a little stilted and unnatural. Watchman may have purposefully done this in order to highlight the different time periods; however, this also has the potential to create a somewhat disconcerting experience for some readers. Towards the end of Secrets, the focus shifts entirely to , and the pace picks up as clues build and some answers are forthcoming. While the main characters of the investigations are fictional, Watchman has them interact with, and refer to, presentday, real-world archaeologists, in an interesting interplay between fiction and non-fiction. Throughout Secrets there is a strong focus on the relationships between archaeologists. Three chapters in particular Chapters 8, 14 and 17 are devoted to people in the archaeological team agonising over current, past and potential future relationships. While such content has its place and perhaps is an accurate reflection of the discipline?! Secrets contains very few grammatical errors, although the incorrect spelling of Wurundjeri Wirundjeri e. Secrets at Hanging Rock is a short, easy read aimed at a general readership with only minimal technical information. It takes a little while to find its stride, but once it does it presents an interesting fictional account of what it might be like for a group of archaeologists to, over years later, potentially solve the mystery of the three missing girls at Hanging Rock. My main criticism is that, as the storyline reaches its peak, the book ends with many questions left unanswered. Is a sequel forthcoming, perhaps?

Chapter 7 : Talk:The Secret of Hanging Rock - Wikipedia

The Secret of Hanging Rock is within the scope of WikiProject Australia, which aims to improve Wikipedia's coverage of Australia and Australia-related topics.

Plot[edit] The novel begins with a brief foreword , which reads: Whether Picnic at Hanging Rock is fact or fiction, my readers must decide for themselves. As the fateful picnic took place in the year nineteen hundred, and all the characters who appear in this book are long since dead, it hardly seems important. One of the students, Sara, who is in trouble with Mrs. Appleyard, is not allowed to go. When they arrive, the students lounge about and eat a lunch. Afterward, Miranda goes to climb the monolith with classmates Edith, Irma, and Marion. As they ascend the rock, in a dreamlike episode, Miranda, Marion, and Irma vanish into the rock while Edith watches; she returns to the picnic in hysterics, disoriented and with no memory of what occurred. Miss McCraw is also nowhere to be accounted for. The school scours the rock in search of the three girls and their teacher, but they are not found. The disappearances provoke much local concern and international sensation with rape, abduction, and murder being assumed as probable explanations. Several organized searches of the picnic grounds and the area surrounding the rock itself turn up nothing. Meanwhile, the students, teachers and staff of the college, as well as members of the community, grapple with the riddle-like events. Mike Fitzhubert embarks on a private search of the rock and discovers Irma, unconscious and on the verge of death. Dianne de Poitiers, announces that she will be getting married and leaving the college as well. A junior governess at the college, Dora Lumley, also leaves with her brother Reg, only for both to be killed in a hotel fire. Appleyard, distraught over the events that have occurred, kills herself by jumping from a peak on Hanging Rock. In a pseudo-historical afterword purportedly extracted from a Melbourne newspaper article, it is written that both the college and the Woodend Police Station, where records of the investigation were kept, were destroyed by a bush fire in the summer of In , rabbit hunters came across a lone piece of frilled calico at the rock, believed to have been part of the dress of the governess, Miss Greta McCraw, but neither she nor the girls were ever found. Each girl begins to experience dizziness and feel as if she is "being pulled from the inside out. This woman is not referenced by name and is apparently a stranger to the girls, yet the narration suggests she is Miss McCraw. Afterwards, the girls remove their own corsets and throw them off the cliff. The recovered woman points out that the corsets appear to hover in mid-air as if stuck in time, and that they cast no shadows. She and the girls continue together. The girls then encounter what is described as "a hole in space," by which they physically enter a crack in the rock following a lizard; the unnamed woman transforms into a crab and disappears into the rock. The chapter ends with Irma "tearing and beating at the gritty face on the boulder with her bare hands. In a article in The Age , it was noted: Joan told Rae [her housekeeper] that the dream had felt so real that when she awoke at 7. I just sort of thought about it all night and in the morning I would go straight up and sit on the floor, papers all around me, and just write like a demon! So I think she channelled it into her writing. I know she was very interested in Arthur Conan Doyle and his belief in and theories about Spiritualism, nature and the existence of spirits. We did talk about this. But the truth for Joan was different to the rest of us. She was never straightforward about it. I think I decided in the end that it was a great work of the imagination. I see it as a book of place; a painterly book that captures the atmosphere of the Australian bush. The dates named in the novel do not correspond to actual dates in the calendar. I wrote that book as a sort of atmosphere of a place, and it was like dropping a stone into the water. I felt that story, if you call it a storyâ€”that the thing that happened on St. Most of the Aboriginal people living in that area died of smallpox or were murdered by colonists or removed to Coranderrk [Aboriginal Reserve in Healesville] in For 40, years Hanging Rock has brought people together, and Miranda and the film and the book are all part of that story. But a significant part of that story was to understand the Indigenous history and further investigate the Indigenous name We focus on one aspect of popular culture around Hanging Rock, and I think what Amy is trying to do is tell a broader story, and we certainly support that. Cheshire , released on 1 November Lindsay provokes a reflection on the understanding of Australia as an un-peopled land where nothing of consequence occurred until the British gave it a history.

Chapter 8 : Picnic at Hanging Rock: Retracing an Australian Murder Mystery - The Bohemian Blog

*In the missing chapter, published as *The Secret of Hanging Rock* (stop reading if you don't want to know), the girls hike up the rock and reach a circular plateau, where they begin to feel strange. Their math teacher, Miss McCraw, appears in her underwear, but they don't recognize her.*

This redirect is supported by WikiProject Australian literature. Need help improving this article? The Wikimedia Australia chapter can be contacted via email to help wikimedia. Gee, it must be a time warp: I hear time warps make people turn into crab-like creatures on a regular basis, right? If no such source can or will be presented, I believe we should change the wording of this article. The book was published by a respectable house, and none of her friends or family have ever gone public accusing them of making it up. I think you can take the chapter as exactly what the publishers promise. You present two arguments why I should take the idea as a fact: These arguments are not convincing. On what factual grounds did Adelaide conclude that the 18th chapter was genuinely written by Lindsay? Nevertheless, I cannot present proof that the 18th chapter is a sham. And indeed you have offered what I asked for: That seems paranoid to me. Or just this one? No manuscript, no diary entry, no civil law notary who acknowledges the transfer of copyrights from Mrs. Just hearsay and more hearsay. So far, I have not found or heard any trace of Mrs. You have a theory that she may never have written it. A theory that, as I far as I can tell, has never been voiced by any other person. Perhaps this is best for a personal website? Shall we, from now on, add ideas to Wikipedia for which only one verbal, i. I think that is unserious scrutiny. At any rate, if there are critiques of this chapter, it would be in the interest of thoroughness to include at least a summary of them in the article. A serious encyclopedia should present a topic as the established facts want it. Add to this the total absence of any material evidence manuscript, typescript, annotations, diary entries, correspondence, transfer of rights, last will , and any rational mind must conclude that there is serious doubt as to the authorship of this dreadful "Secret". Since other wikipedians clearly disagree with you, could I please ask you to refrain from further attempts without first establishing consensus for this change? So let me try to find some establishment for my position. Which verifiable facts do you think should be established before this lemma should rightfully claim that X has actually been written by Y? Just asking and just feeling embarrassed that forwarding serious, scientific, philological doubt meets with such enmity. So to raise doubt about the claim, I firmly believe you need to cite some other reliable source that supports such skepticism. Since Picnic at Hanging Rock is a classic and has been the subject of much scholarly attention, that should not be hard to find if your suspicions are shared by acknowledged experts. A quick search did not bring up anything: In fact, the closest thing to any reservations I could find is McCrick , "More on Hanging Rock" [2] , where we may perhaps detect a degree of dubiousness, although he never explicitly disputes the account: Its release after her death, apparently, was what Joan Lindsay wanted [I consider it a definite possibility. The principle at stake here is WP:

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Picnic at Hanging Rock: Retracing an Australian Murder Mystery Monday 30 September Australia , Dark Tourism , Nature , Supernatural Hanging Rock is the name of a large geological formation which rises out of the plain roughly 70km north-west of Melbourne. In it provided the setting for what was to become a popular cult novel: There was a classic car show being held at Hanging Rock on the day we visited. I had travelled by car with a Canadian friend, herself a resident of Melbourne. As we sat in the queue for the car park, something large and grey bounded past between the stationary vehicles ahead. Anywhere else I would have guessed it was a greyhound, though it seemed far too large " too muscular " to be a dog. Nowadays Hanging Rock is surrounded by an enclosed recreation reserve, featuring picnic areas, forests and a racetrack encircled by a chain-link fence. We parked up on the grass, and made our way towards the looming rock formation. As ridiculous as it felt to ask directions for the towering mass of solidified lava up ahead, we were separated from the rock by a ring of fences, and the confusion of cars obscured any view of the gate. Stopping to ask two locals for the path to the summit, they picked up on our foreign accents and decided to make sport of the gullible tourists. Invented purely for the sake of winding up outsiders, commonly suggested deterrents for drop bear attacks include smearing vegemite in the armpits or urinating on oneself. We made our farewells, then headed off to begin the ascent. Three of the girls, along with a teacher, never made it back. One girl reappeared a week later, sans corset, yet seemingly unscathed " she had lost her memory though, and was unable to recall any of the events on the day in question. Over the course of the ensuing search and investigation, there were accusations of murder and child molestation, of kidnapping, and even references to the Ripper Murders in London. Of course, all of the events above constitute a work of fiction. In interviews however Lindsay was coy with the facts, hesitant to dispel the myth she had created. The inclusion of a pseudo-historical prologue and epilogue to her novel also added to the intrigue, and numerous readers were inspired to climb Hanging Rock in search of evidence. In the missing Chapter 18, we cut back to the scene of the disappearance. The girls climb the rock in a daze, beginning to feel increasingly nauseous the higher they get. Removing their corsets they throw the garments from the top of a cliff " only to see them hang, suspended in the air. Climbing the Rock Hanging Rock was formed roughly a million years ago, a so-called geological wonder resulting from volcanic activity in the region of Mount Macedon. It was once an important spiritual centre in Aboriginal folklore, and a pilgrimage spot for male initiation ceremonies; until Western colonists relocated the last of the Wurundjeri tribesmen in , and claimed the land beneath the rock to create a racecourse and fashionable picnicking spot. The approach was steep, but a well-trodden path wound up through a crease in the rock. Near the bottom we passed the grave of Travis Le Clezio; a real life victim of the rock, the Le Clezio family lost their year-old when he fell from the mountain in Rising up past the formation known as Vampire Cliff, a few times I ventured off course; squeezing my way between massive boulders, beneath ancient lintels, to find hidden passages through the stone. There were enough cracks in the rock face to allow regular footholds, and at one point I scaled my way up the side of a natural chimney, emerging onto a plateau high above. Once or twice we passed other climbers, although these became fewer as the afternoon drew on. There was a thick silence hanging over the place, and the rock betrayed no sign of life. Even the spider webs which hung from its scorched trees appeared old, dusty and disused. Several lookout points on Mount Diogenes take their name from the rangers who had once favoured these spots. Approaching the top I climbed a large, protruding boulder to the highest point. The flat landscape opened up beneath me, allowing a degree view of the vast, open plains. The hot sun caused a heat haze to ripple through the still air, while the sky hung over us; dry, blue and impossibly big. It was late in the afternoon, but the sun was still beating down hard. I began to feel a little dizzy up on the peak, so scrambled back down to level ground. Reaching the base of the boulder, I spotted a couple of lizards nearby " skinks, as far as I could tell " creeping out from a rocky crevice to bask in the sun. We followed their lead. Just red wine, hot sunshine and perhaps the best view in the State of Victoria. There was something I found peculiar about the rock. Strange to think that it had

emerged onto this landscape so recently, relative to the rolling plains, to Mount Macedon in the distance. What had looked like a short cut at first turned out to be anything but as we found ourselves scrambling and sliding down a series of scree slopes. It felt as though we had the rock to ourselves. As it turned out, we did. Empty, that is, except for one car: The car show had finished while we were on the rock, and in due course the crowds had left for home. Ambling across sun-bleached grass towards the solitary vehicle, I spotted a sign warning of snakes. For a split second I thought it was a mannequin, a motionless dummy, standing at roughly the height of a human being. It had the face of a rabbit though and just as I realised what I was looking at it turned its back and hopped away. When I came out of the bushes again, they were everywhere; a troop of roos several dozen strong, spread out across the rolling grasslands. I was entranced by the way they moved, as they foraged for grass; a clumsy lolling motion, flanks rippling with solid muscle, before lifting their tails and surging forward in massive bounds. My friend had made it to the car already, and while I stood watching the mob had divided around me. The females, bearing joeys in their pouches, had moved to the far side of the car, while several of the larger males each one of them taller than me had begun to circle around me. I made for the car, swiftly and cautiously, locking the door behind me for good measure. If we thought we were simply going to drive out of the park though, we were in for disappointment. We soon found out that the last person to leave had diligently locked and chained the gates behind them. We tried checking one field over, dodging the roos, and then the field after that; but to no avail. Eventually we drove the entire circumference of the rock and its attendant recreational grounds. We started weighing up our options. I was still optimistic about escape. There were a couple of golf buggies parked on the edge of the racecourse and I hatched a cunning plan to hotwire one, before using it to ram the gate. I sat down at the wheel checking beneath the seat for spiders only to remember that I had no idea how an engine worked. Our remaining options were to sleep in the car, or call the police. We called the police. The squad car took an hour to arrive, and then another thirty minutes as the officer went looking for keys to the heavy padlock on the gate. As he fumbled with the lock, he chided us for missing the curfew. The day had been a fantastic disaster, memorable despite the wine. The Bohemian Blog is bigger than it looks. Check out my page on Patreon to find out more about the perks of getting involved.