

# IS THIS MAN THE GREATEST LIAR ON EARTH?



A "TRUE" STORY  
BY MARK GREENWOOD AND FRANÉ LESSAC



One dark and foggy night in 1898, a haggard and ageing man named Louis de Rougemont arrived in London to tell the most amazing story "a man had ever lived to tell".

Declaring himself a survivor of a disastrous shipwreck, Louis claims he lived as a castaway in northwest Australia for over 30 years.

A modern-day Crusoe, he wrestled fearsome sea monsters, used giant turtles as makeshift paddleboards and discovered mountains of blood-red rubies and nuggets of gold too big for one man to carry.

His revelations of fantastical creatures and epic feats garnered Louis instant celebrity. Causing an international media frenzy, he won the favour of the leading scientific authorities of the day and even HRH Queen Victoria.

Then, just as quickly as his star rose, his credibility was bought into question. Was he really the intriguing and brave man he claimed to be? Or was he in fact the greatest liar on earth?

Now for the first time in picture-book format, award-winning husband and wife team Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac bring Louis de Rougemont's story to full life in *The Greatest Liar on Earth*.

A visual feast by internationally renowned artist Frané, each page is a rich canvas of colour and detail, complimented by Mark's dramatic and perfectly timed story arcs

to rival those of de Rougemont.

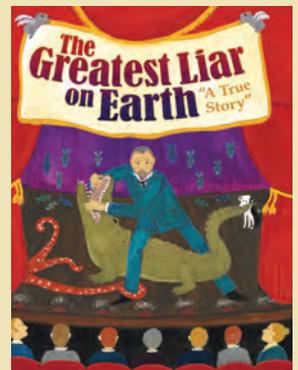
Speaking from their home in Fremantle, Western Australia, Mark and Frané believe that this story is as relevant today as it was in the 19th century.

*"The Greatest Liar on Earth* is, on the surface, an adventure story - a remarkable tale of shipwreck, catastrophe and miraculous events.

But beneath the surface it is the "true" story of an unusual character, perhaps an overly enthusiastic dreamer, perhaps a charlatan, who is forced to confront the consequences of his storytelling", says Mark.

In this epic story of the construction, and deconstruction, of celebrity so relevant in today's world of "instant" fame, Mark and Frané follow the rise and fall of de Rougemont - from a penniless tramp, to major international celebrity, and his final act as a homeless street vendor.

A gripping tale from start to finish, *The Greatest Liar on Earth* is a true account of how sometimes stories become truths, and truths become stories, leaving readers to ponder - after we have been entertained by a ripping yarn, does it really matter if it is true or not?



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