



THE BEAUTIFUL OBSCURE by Luke Stegemann

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A culture revealed and a life transformed – Transmission Press presents THE BEAUTIFUL OBSCURE, a groundbreaking work of memoir and cultural history.

For centuries a cornerstone of European political, religious and artistic heritage, Spain's influence on the history and cultural formation of Australia has long been neglected.

As so often happens, the most fascinating stories lie hidden below the surface. Exploring forgotten episodes, characters and links between Australia and Spain, Luke Stegemann reveals not just an intriguing take on Australian history, but also his own story of profound personal transformation.

In this beautifully written, groundbreaking work, Stegemann draws on his more than thirty years living between both countries, combining documentary research with art history, political analysis, memoir, travelogue and family anecdote to essay a largely unconsidered cultural history.

A powerful work that introduces the reader to an extraordinary array of characters and events, THE BEAUTIFUL OBSCURE is a deeply personal, stylish and compelling new work of literary non-fiction.

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Cover image shows a detail from: Joachim Patinir, *El paso de la laguna Estigia (Charon crossing the Styx)*, 1520-1524
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Extracts and author interviews available.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Luke Stegemann is a writer, editor, Hispanist and boxing referee based in south-east Queensland. He has worked in media, publishing and higher education in Australia, Europe and Asia.

This book spoke to my heart. An outsider's love letter to a people and their way of life... a rich palimpsest of ideas and episodes and tumbling phrases. A country, a culture, a life, all intertwined – who could ask for more? - Nicolas Rothwell

A fearless account of cultural difference and historical reckoning. This wonderful book reduces our ignorance of one of the world's great cultural and linguistic hubs. !Bravo! - Phillipa McGuinness