

CAPITAL DESIGNS

AUSTRALIA HOUSE AND VISIONS OF AN IMPERIAL LONDON

Eileen Chanin

Here is a story of ambitions and achievements – global, imperial, local and personal. It is an account of how Australia's first diplomatic mission was conceived, designed and built. Commenced in 1913, Australia House was opened in 1918 while the Great War still raged. As London's first purpose-built Dominion embassy building, it defined London as a grand Imperial capital.

Eileen Chanin is an award-winning author and historian at the Australian National University and King's College London.

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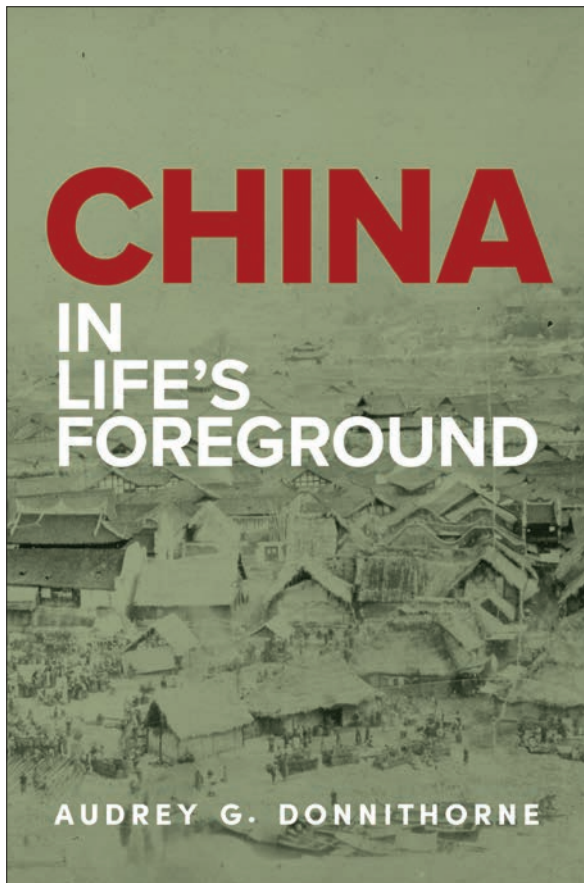


Above
The library, east end, July 1918.

Right
Australia House from the Strand, as envisaged in July 1918.



By permission of Historic England Archive



CHINA IN LIFE'S FOREGROUND

Audrey G. Donnithorne

Audrey Donnithorne was born in Sichuan province, China, of British missionary parents. She is an economist and writer who has held academic posts at University College London and at the Australian National University, working mainly on the economy of China. In her long life she has been a sharp-eyed observer of a changing Asian and Western world: of China in the era of the war lords, the Guomindang and the war against Japan; of Mao and the post-Maoist resurgence; of Britain at War and in the last days of Empire; of Singapore and Malaya soon after the War and Indonesia in the early days of independence; and of decolonisation. She observed the Cold War from several angles and has also been an active Catholic laywoman in the Culture Wars of the 20th century in Britain and Australia, and in helping the beleaguered Catholics in China. This is her memoir.

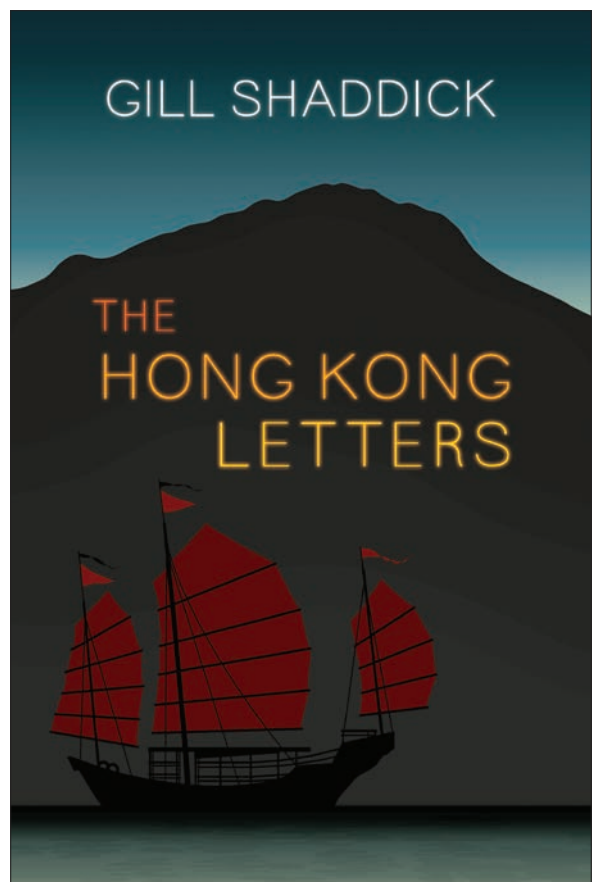
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THE HONG KONG LETTERS

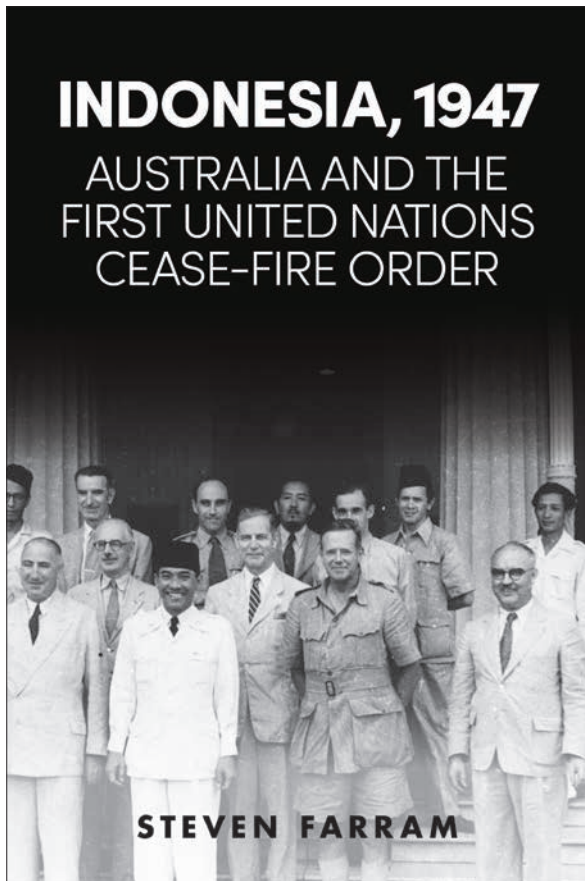
A TRAVEL MEMOIR
Gill Shaddick

In the late sixties when the Beatles are top of the charts and Twiggy is hitting the catwalk, Gill embarks on a life-changing journey to Hong Kong. Mao's revolution is at its height. Vietnam has become America's longest war with no end in sight. But it's at an ad agency under insane direction where Gill finds her battles and learns to stand her ground.

In this spirited memoir, where *Mad Men* meets Han Suyin's *A Many-Splendoured Thing*, Gill recreates a Hong Kong of the imagination. Attractive and naïve, wined and dined by Hong Kong's elite, she gravitates towards camaraderie outside the world of advertising and money, and adventure follows. A weekend sail goes awry when a yacht with her on board strays into the waters of Communist China. A full-scale sea and air search mounted from Hong Kong can find no trace. Yet Gill is very much alive. With her friends, she is reciting from Mao's *Little Red Book* with no idea what fate awaits her or how long she will be held.



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INDONESIA, 1947

AUSTRALIA AND THE FIRST UNITED NATIONS CEASE-FIRE ORDER

Steven Farram

Australia's contribution to Indonesia's independence struggle is broadly well-known and this book explores an important part of the story: Australia's leading role in the 1947 UN Consular Commission and the monitoring of the first UN cease-fire order. The commission's military observers were pioneer peacekeepers, and an examination of the commission's activities is useful for understanding the Indonesian independence struggle in the following years. Australia's involvement also played a positive role in long-term Australian-Indonesian relations.

Format: Paperback

Released: 18 April

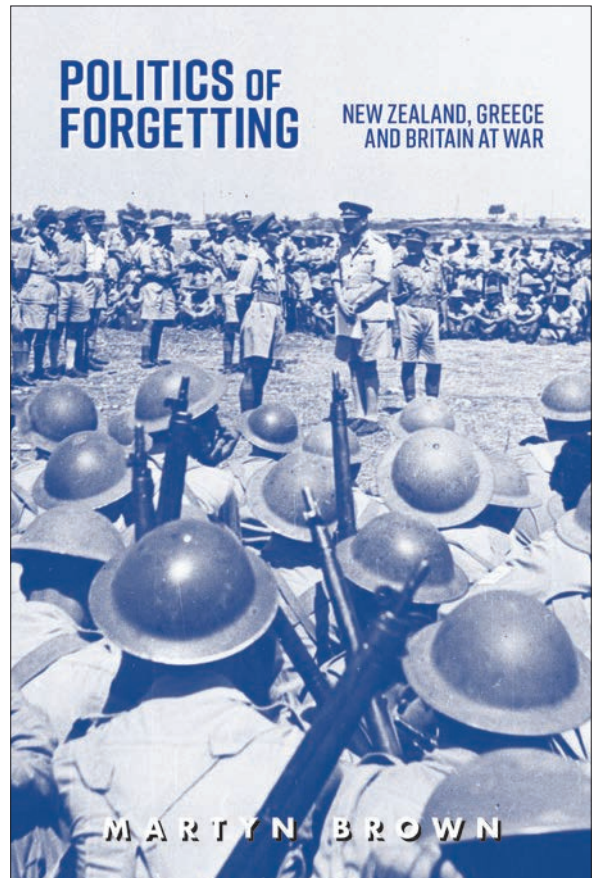
ISBN: 978-1-925801-66-8 Price: \$44

POLITICS OF FORGETTING

NEW ZEALAND, GREECE AND BRITAIN AT WAR

Martyn Brown

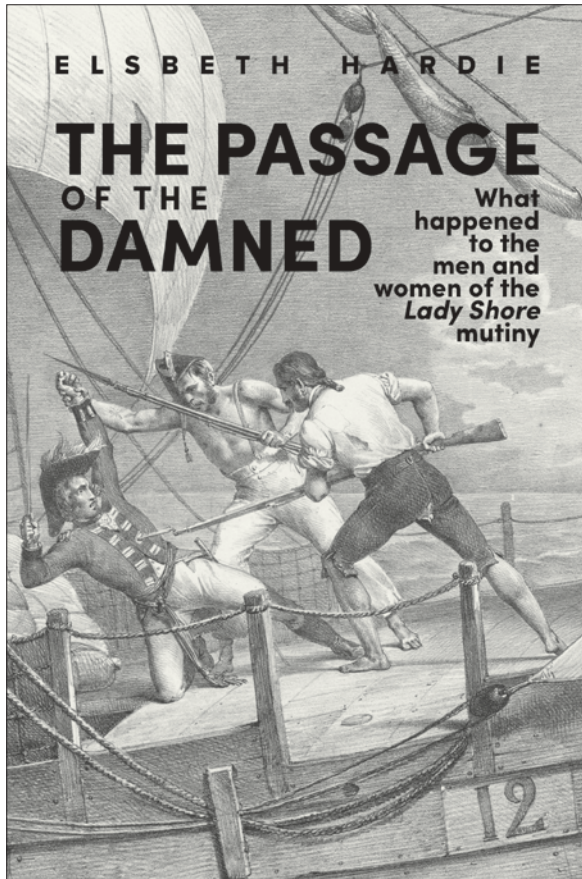
Greece was a poor country in turmoil and pain during the 1940s. A military dictatorship was followed by invasion and terrifying occupation by Germany and its allies, starvation, civil war, political unrest and mutiny in its free military armed forces. New Zealand entered this arena and found a bond with a people that it still celebrates to this day. Absent is the complex, divisive and sometimes violent and surreal relationship between the two countries and the inescapable influence of Britain. Their story stretches from the mountains and open country of Greece and Crete to Middle East deserts, autumn-swept plains of Italy, and the blood-splattered streets of post-liberated Athens. Ironically New Zealand has forgotten the unpalatable but also sacrificed something that would have enhanced its own national storytelling about the war.



Format: Paperback

Released: 18 April

ISBN: 978-1-925801-68-2 Price: \$49.95



THE PASSAGE OF THE DAMNED

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE *LADY SHORE* MUTINY

Elsbeth Hardie

In an extraordinary move, in 1797, the British government pressed a small group of French and German prisoners of war into the New South Wales Corps, gave them firearms and placed them as guards on a ship carrying sixty-six convict women and two convict men to New South Wales. The result was a mutiny some months into the voyage in which the captain of the *Lady Shore* was killed and the fates of all of those on board were tied together when the ship was taken to South America. The true story of what happened to those on board is told here in detail for the first time, in part through the eyes of sailor George Drinkald whose fascinating and articulate first-hand testimony has recently emerged.

Format: Paperback

Released: 4 April

ISBN: 978-1-925801-65-1 Price: \$29.95

OUR FORGOTTEN VOLUNTEERS

AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS WITH SERBS IN WORLD WAR ONE

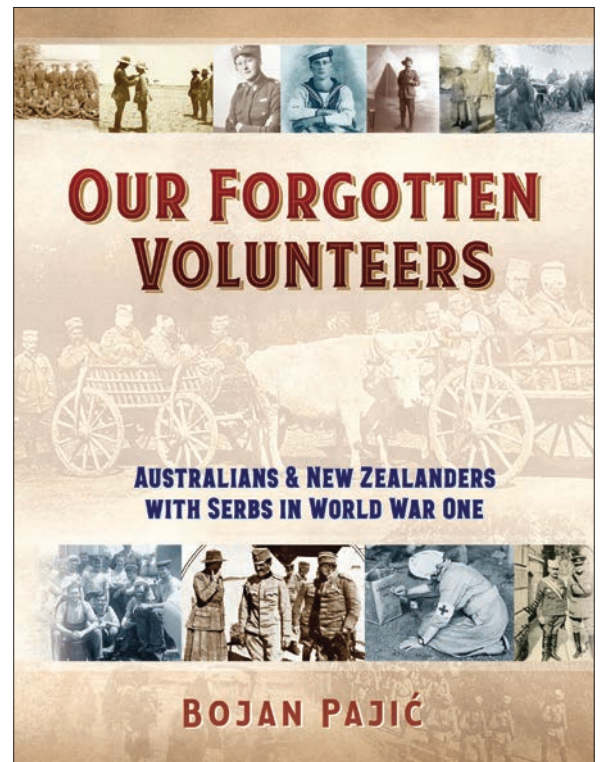
Bojan Pajic

Australian and New Zealand volunteers were already in Serbia, treating wounded Serbian soldiers and fighting a typhus epidemic, before the ANZACs landed at Gallipoli in 1915. The Gallipoli Campaign sealed Serbia's fate, however, as Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria moved to secure a land supply corridor to Turkey through Serbia.

Australians and New Zealanders accompanied the Serbian Army on a deadly retreat over wintry mountains to the Adriatic coast. When the fighting shifted to the Salonika or 'Macedonian' Front, many served there with the British Army, the Royal Flying Corps, two AIF units and six Royal Australian Navy destroyers in the Adriatic and Aegean Seas. Some died in action, others from disease.

Several hundred doctors, nurses and orderlies treated the wounded and sick in an Australian-led volunteer hospital and in British and New Zealand Army hospitals. The author Miles Franklin was a medical orderly supporting the Serbian Army; her little-known memoir is quoted extensively in this book.

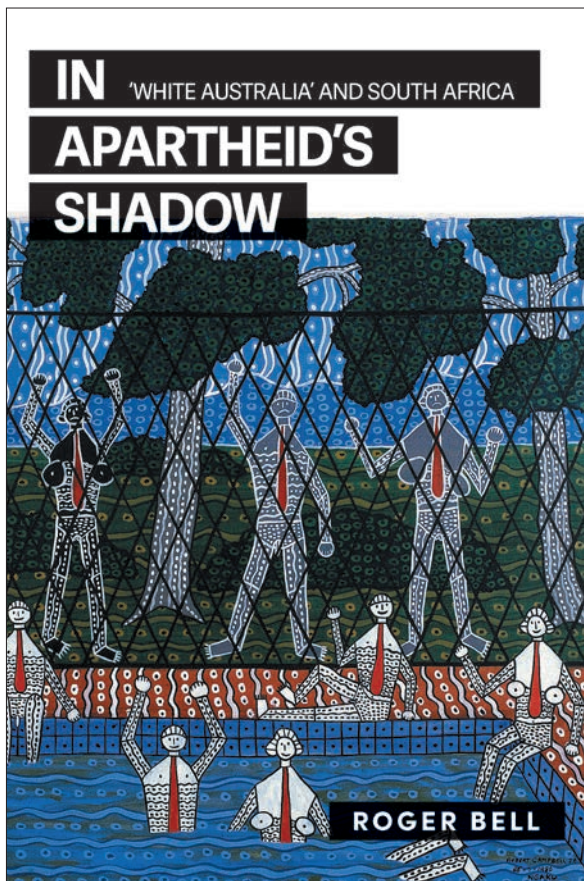
Fifteen hundred Australians and New Zealanders served on this little known yet crucial battlefield. Now for the first time we have an engaging and comprehensive account of what they experienced and achieved in the Great War.



Format: Paperback

Released: 7 March

ISBN: 978-1-925801-44-6 Price: \$65



IN APARTHEID'S SHADOW 'WHITE AUSTRALIA' AND SOUTH AFRICA

Roger Bell

In 1952 an Australian journalist cabled from Johannesburg 'Apartheid is the trigger that has fired racial explosions in South Africa and sent echoes rumbling around the world'. In the outposts of Europe's unstable empires, entrenched racism came under unprecedented assault. 'White Australia', especially, was challenged as opposition to racial oppression under a white minority regime in South Africa hardened. In both countries the politics of anti-racism were unleashed – albeit in different ways and with very different consequences.

In South Africa entrenched systems of white supremacy were brutally enforced under Apartheid. In Australia, ideologies of race and white privilege were disrupted and, slowly, walls of discrimination cracked. Race politics in post-war Australia was deeply affected by the fractious international struggle over apartheid.

The movement against apartheid obliged white Australia to grapple with moral and political issues embedded in its own racialised history and sense of nation. Contests provoked by apartheid were played out on the world stage and, as Indigenous activists emphasised, in Australia's own backyard.

This pioneering book explores these struggles as white Australia was hesitantly rejected and the nation negotiated its place in a post-colonial world.



Format: Paperback Released: 18 April
ISBN: 978-1-925801-67-5 Price: \$39.95



AN ISLAND IN THE LAKE

Bruce Nash

Pat and Ruth Beckett have retired from Sydney to the sublime landscape of the far south coast. To their garden, to their books, to their island in the lake.

They want no part of the madness of Harbourside Grammar, monstrous celebrity billionaire Buckets Barrington, or the sinister Magnareach Corporation.

But the madness wants a part of them.

Can great books, small black ducks, perfectly formed compost and proper placement of the apostrophe be enough to defend their paradise?

Format: Hardback

Released: 21 March

ISBN: 978-1-925801-70-5 Price: \$34.95

An island in the lake.

Patrick Beckett was on his knees in the zucchinis, thinking about Virginia Woolf. His gloves were black with compost. An earthworm he'd disturbed with his spade writhed away towards the edge of the garden bed, intent on escape. He did his best to resettle it in the rich loam. "Back you go where you belong," he said, perhaps aloud. He knew a butcher bird was watching from the fence post, all sharp-eyed opportunism. *Mrs Dalloway always had the feeling that it was very, very dangerous to live even one day.* Pat thought that was how it went. He pushed and moulded the soil the way he wanted it, dressing the seedlings so they stood straight, giving them their best chance, wishing them well. The phone in his pocket beeped its message alert. He didn't quite curse out loud. At least it was only a text, he wasn't expected to have a conversation. He'd ignore it. Something changed his mind. He fished the thing out and fumbled at it through his gardening gloves. It was from Sally Beaumarchis, of all people. ■

BRUCE NASH.

Patrick Beckett was on his knees in the zucchinis, thinking about Virginia Woolf.

It had begun as such a beautiful day. Another one. Ruth had put coffee beside him in bed just before dawn as she went off to her study to put in an early stint working on her edit of the Mining Magnate's memoir. Pat Beckett read a little poetry with his coffee as he woke up. He had an anthology on the bedside table, and he looked at some Emily Dickinson, a little John Donne. Mostly he looked out the window as daylight came up in the garden, listening to the first birds make their claims. Kookaburras, magpies. Then butcher birds and wattlebirds and lorikeets and galahs and a lone whipbird calling for a mate. And as the sun arrived in full, the wrens and silvereyes and tiny flitting thornbills that came alive like hordes of spirit-children racing through the camellias. There was a pair of beautiful white-headed forest pigeons he knew to be nesting somewhere in the big paperbark, and he waited until they made an appearance before he got up and went downstairs into the kitchen to organise some eggs.

Under a blue sky he and Ruth had breakfast beneath the rose arbour, looking out through the coastal mahoganies and casuarinas that fringed their view of Wallaga Lake and of Mount Gulaga rising above it.

"Good morning mother," Ruth said to the mountain as she always did.

Patrick Beckett was on his knees in the zucchinis, thinking about Virginia Woolf. His gloves were black with compost. An earthworm he'd disturbed with his spade writhed away towards the edge of the garden bed, intent on escape. He did his best to resettle it in the rich loam. "Back you go where you belong," he said, perhaps aloud. He knew a butcher bird was watching from the fence post, all sharp-eyed opportunism. *Mrs Dalloway always had the feeling that it was very, very dangerous to live even one day.* Pat thought that was how it went. He pushed and moulded the soil the way he wanted it, dressing the seedlings so they stood straight; giving them their best chance, wishing them well. The phone in his pocket beeped its message alert. He didn't quite curse out loud. At least it was only a text, he wasn't expected to have a conversation. He'd ignore it. Something changed his mind. He fished the thing out and fumbled at it through his gardening gloves. It was from Sally Beaumarchis, of all people.

Hi Patrick, how's retired bliss? Please ring me at school when you have a sec - something you might be able to help us with. Best from all at Harbourside. XX

He wiped compost and manure from the screen and returned the phone to his pocket. The butcher-bird looked at him from the fence post, earthworm dangling from its beak. It smacked the worm against the post once, twice, then swallowed it down. The bird looked straight at Pat Beckett along the length of its hooked beak, wanting more. Always they wanted more.

THE BLASPHEMY LAWS

John Dale

It's October 2048 and an Islamist political Party has swept to power in Britain's general elections. Overnight the country is transformed by the introduction of the blasphemy laws. An Australian history teacher who lost his wife and daughter in a terror attack arrives in London to make contact with the leader of the Resistance. When he becomes involved with a homeless young woman, he discovers the possibility of a new life for both of them far from the dangers of the new London.

Format: Hardback

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THEY HAD LET HIM PICK
A NAME FOR HIS FAKE
PASSPORT AND HE CHOSE
WINSTON JOHN SMITH.
THEY SAID IT WAS AN
EXCELLENT CHOICE BUT
THEY DIDN'T EXPLAIN
THE BLASPHEMY LAWS
WHY. THEY TOLD HIM
HE WAS A SOLDIER
IN AN UNDECLARED
WAR, THAT THIS WAS A
FIGHT FOR CIVILIZATION.
POLITICIANS, THE SIPS
AND THE **JOHN DALE**

ZARATHA'S EPISTOLARY

Luan Rama

Translated by Miranda Xhilaga

Frederik Çoba, an Albanian intellectual, a Latinist who dreams of a modern, democratic Albania, is arrested and convicted for his political views and imprisoned on an isolated island off the Adriatic coast. While there among others denied freedom and facing an abyss of violence, he decides to translate the 'Inferno', the first section of Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy*. In his letters to his wife, he paints a heart-wrenching picture of the life as a political prisoner and speaks of his passion in translating 'Hell'. It takes his wife a year to get permission to visit him, but the regime's henchmen have been there first. What happened to Dante's translator?

Format: Hardback

Released: 21 March

ISBN: 978-1-925801-74-3 Price: \$29.95

IT IS THEN THAT I START
THINKING OF DANTE'S
INFERNO ALL OVER AGAIN
-I START LIVING IT; I ENTER
INTO DARK, DEEP, DAMP
LABYRINTHS **ZARATHA'S**
EPISTOLARY AND FIND
IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET
OUT. I SCREAM IN MY
HEAD; I WANT TO PUNCH
THE SKY, BUT NO ONE,
NO ONE CAN HEAR ME
LUAN RAMA TRANSLATED
BY **MIRANDA XHILAGA**

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