

# T. D. KUCHEL

## About Me

T. D. Kuchel is an Australian author, book reviewer and freelance journalist.

Having admired works of time travel and parallel worlds since a young age, T. D. Kuchel brilliantly captures the essence of reality with his fictional tales. Though, also partial to drama and a worthy love story, his tales flicker with romance and suspense.

A keen traveller, T. D. Kuchel longs for adventure and strives to write first-hand of locations around the globe. The plot for his debut novel, *The Passage of Conquest*, was conceived whilst sailing the Whitsunday Islands. Between exploits, he resides in The Barossa Valley, where he enjoys quality time with his family, the local splendour of food and wine and writing in his home library.



# THE PASSAGE OF CONQUEST

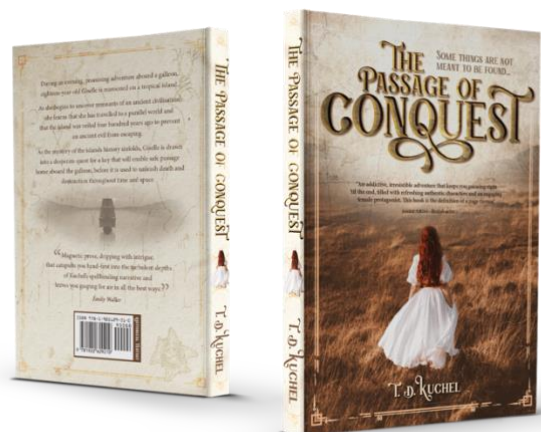
## Synopsis

*The Passage of Conquest* is a fast-paced YA historical/fantasy novel set in 1959.

During an evening, promising adventure aboard a galleon, eighteen-year-old Giselle is marooned on a tropical island.

As she begins to uncover remnants of an ancient civilisation, she learns that she has travelled to a parallel world and that the island was veiled four hundred years ago to prevent an ancient evil from escaping.

As the mystery of the islands history unfolds, Giselle is drawn into a desperate quest for a key that will enable safe passage home aboard the galleon before it is used to unleash death and destruction throughout time and space.



ISBN: 978-1-922629-21-0

RRP: TBD

Formats: Paperback and eBook

Publisher: Green Hill Publishing

## Media and Marketing Campaign

- Extensive paid social media advertising focused on target audience.
- Point of sale material, including bookmarks, posters, shelf talkers.
- Feature article in a South Australian magazine.
- Paid collaboration with popular media companies to host giveaways and other promotions.
- Well advertised pre-release launch party.
- Online Launch party with well-known influencer.

## Reviews

“An addictive, irresistible adventure that keeps you guessing right ‘til the end, filled with refreshing authentic characters and an engaging female protagonist. This book is the definition of a page-turner.”

- *Jessica Atkins – British actor*

“I am shocked. I’m literally speechless right now. T. D. Kuchel has such a bright mind! Oh God, the plot twists, one after the other! You get the ships, the maps and the keys, but the treasure will never be what you expect. This book will leave you speechless and wanting more. A story perfectly created for those who love classic adventure tales.”

- *Ysera Sevriens*

“Magnetic prose, dripping with intrigue, that catapults you head-first into the turbulent depths of Kuchel’s spellbinding narrative and leaves you gasping for air in all the best ways.”

- *Emily Waller*

“This book was hard not to think about. All I wanted to do was find out what happened. The end of each chapter leaves you on a cliff-hanger every single time! I loved the characters, Giselle being my favourite. She’s a strong independent woman who just didn’t know it yet. We follow her growth as the story develops and it’s lovely to read, to feel. The details of the descriptions are so vivid! I highly recommend this book if you want an exciting, fast-paced read.”

- *Amy Gillings*

“T. D. Kuchel narrates an exciting world with unpredictable cliff-hangers. I never knew what the next page had in store for me. If you’re looking for a book to take you out of this world and on a path of adventure, you are in luck. This book has great feel for friendship, loss and love, keeping you captivated in the characters and the events unfolding around them. I found it hard to put the book down and I’m excited to get my hands on the second one!”

- *Hollie Hurst*

“This isn’t initially something I would pick up but I Loved it! Kuchel explores the deepest unknowns of sailing the ocean and the mysteries that it holds. Each turn of the page brings with it a new adventure, making it impossible to put down. The story is vivid, action-packed and adventurous. The writing is truly captivating; I am hooked!”

- *Holly Joyce*

## Q&A with T.D. Kuchel

### ***Can you tell us about *The Passage of Conquest*?***

Definitely, how about a little prologue? Warning, this contains spoilers. In a parallel world, deep within the island of Agrnathea's highest mountain, The Sekart Order have guarded the tomb of life's creator since the dawn of the second age.

During an expedition to uncover the creator's legacy, an elixir of life was found, along with a galleon and instructions to activate its ability to travel through time to collect their lord.

For centuries, preserved by the elixir, The Sekart worked on the galleon, meanwhile influencing the ways of the world through the trading's of the islands village.

On the day of the galleons completion, a devastating secret was discovered, capable of unhinging the civilised world. In an effort to contain the secret, The Sekart veiled the island from the outside world.

Unbeknownst to them, one man, incapable of coping escaped the temple with an ancient parasite and contaminated the surrounding ocean. Slowly, the residents of the island were mutated into a vicious army and led back to the temple in a dreadful rage.

The lone survivor of The Sekart Order removed the galleons navigation key just in time and sent it into the time portal, unknowing where it might end up.

For four hundred years, whilst the world beyond the island's borders fell to torment of war, two immortal survivors, one good one evil, have remained trapped on the island awaiting the galleons return ...

### ***Where did the inspiration for this story come from?***

In 2010, whilst sailing alongside Whitsunday Island during sunset, I found myself imagining,

"What if somebody fell off the yacht into one of the whirlpools? And what if a key was hanging from that person's neck with the power to transport them to another world, and it was activated upon impact..."

This wasn't something I'd usually do, but I was on holiday, in the moment and surrounded by islands. I didn't realise it at the time, but this thought was the spark that ignited the flame.

### ***Every time we read about sailing ships in literature, we get pirates or mermaids. You created a story in which the sea and the ship are key characters and blended it with a parallel universe and time travel, creating something completely new. What was your intention?***

Before the actual plot was conceived, I had been accumulating a list of everything other stories were missing. Eventually, this story came to me as a result, containing everything I was searching for. As the plot for ***The Passage of Conquest*** developed, I was driven by the thrill of creating something entirely unique and unpredictable.

***Why set the novel in 1959?***

When establishing the beginning, I pictured a romantic, peaceful La Rochelle, without mobile phones, billboards or chaotic lifestyles. Writing about teenage girls in the present would have sadly had to involve mobile phones.

As the plot developed, it also became clear that it had to be set some time after a large war and must suit the style of fashion I intended the characters to wear. The model of Nickolas' motorcycle was also an influence.

***A galleon is a curious thing to feature in 1959, how did that come to be in the story?***

There's just something about a timber boat with sails that I find adventurous! As laboursome and uncomfortable I'm sure they must have been, they have character and a romance which no motorboat can match.

***This book is sure to capture the imaginations of male and female readers, but what made you choose a female protagonist?***

There was never any questioning the gender of my protagonist. She was Giselle right from the beginning.

She actually came about after a number of events leading up to story's conception. I didn't have children in 2011, but was always fond of the idea of having daughters. Over the years I had gathered a short list of names. When I revealed these to my wife, she did not share my fondness for them. One of them was Giselle.

Shortly before Hamilton Island, I took my wife dress shopping in Review Australia where she purchased a cream cupcake dress that cemented my affection for the beauty of dresses and influenced Giselle's taste in clothing. I have always been fond of ballet, so when the story needed a protagonist, Giselle was instantly created.

***This is an incredible adventure, and would have also been in our world. What inspired you to create the culture of a parallel world?***

I wanted the story to have an attachment to the real world but to exist alongside it. The stories that captured my imagination as a young boy were of people leaving the real world to experience adventures elsewhere. I found that wanting the protagonist to find a way home was a driving force that kept me intrigued. I have also become fond of period dramas as an adult and liked the idea of creating a lost civilisation without boundaries of

***One of the most fascinating characters you've created is an immortal named Ednok. So much thought must have gone into creating the story of his life. What inspired his creation?***

I was thrilled by the chance to explore my interest in this subject. There's a comment by Ednok that sums up my thoughts of immortality perfectly.

"Why would I not wish to be immortal? I have spent a lifetime mastering each of my abilities, from basic cooking to understanding the human anatomy. Just imagine, I plan for a future that I know will always come. I stock my shelves with books, my cellar with wine, my pockets with gold, my heart with warmth and my mind with infinite knowledge, knowing that I have time for it all."

I believe that death can be an unfortunate waste of knowledge and ability.

***They say writers put too much of themselves into stories, did *The Passage of Conquest* capture much of you?***

My dad says, "The Passage of Conquest is me in book form." I believe that sums it up best.

***Which character best captures you?***

Giselle, though each one was derived from parts of myself.

***You are one of the many authors who have been affected by a pandemic. What motivates you to keep going with all that is going on in the world?***

At first it was unsettling and completely ruined all plans for publishing. It has since led me down a different path and allowed me to prepare and execute the launch of this book properly. I remain motivated by my desire to share this adventure with the world.

***Do your reading preferences affect your writing style?***

I don't think so. As a book reviewer I am given all types of books to read. Strangely, I usually find inspiration while reading unrelated topics.

***Do you plan your writing progress, or do you write along the way?***

I usually have the main plot mapped out, but with that underway, I find the characters come alive and begin to tell their own story.

***How did you come up with the title?***

Without giving anything away, I needed the title to describe a significant object's purpose.

***What can readers hope to learn from this book?***

I hope that readers will learn self-assurance, learn to find comfort in

***Although it takes place in a parallel world, the setting of The Passage of Conquest is incredibly vivid. Are many locations inspired by true locations?***

Definitely! The Whitsundays provided a lot of the initial inspiration. I took further inspiration from my travels around the world.

***What books have inspired you?***

My year one teacher was able to take a moment of each day to read to our class. He chose to read the Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings. I think from that moment I have always been in ore of the publication of books.

***Are there any characters or topics you would have liked to cover more in the first book? If so, will we get the chance to delve deeper into that in part two?***

I'm quite fond of the fashion and simplicity of historical periods. Having created my own world, I would enjoy revealing more of the history of that civilisation throughout the following instalments.

***How many stories does T. D. Kuchel have in mind? How many of those will we get the chance to read?***

Beyond The Passage of Conquest trilogy I have a number of stories I intend to share, including a series of short stories, a children's book and a thriller.

***Those who have read The Passage of Conquest will be eager to know ... what can we expect in book two and is there yet a title?***

You can expect the story to continue, as though not a minute has passed. Rest assured, Giselle remains the same character, but will endure different challenges and experiences.

For now, the title of book two must remain a secret, but please follow [www.tdkuchel.com](http://www.tdkuchel.com) for regular updates.

## Feature Article

Following rave reviews from around the globe, the highly anticipated YA historical fantasy, *The Passage of Conquest* is scheduled to arrive.

During an evening, promising adventure aboard a galleon, eighteen-year-old Giselle is marooned on a tropical island.

As she begins to uncover remnants of an ancient civilisation, she learns that she has travelled to a parallel world and that the island was veiled four hundred years ago to prevent an ancient evil from escaping.

As the mystery of the islands history unfolds, Giselle is drawn into a desperate quest for a key that will enable safe passage home aboard the galleon, before it is used to unleash death and destruction throughout time and space.

This is the tale of a strong, independent woman who just didn't know it yet. Flickering with drama, romance and suspense, this powerful, unique tale will be highly enjoyed by readers of Matthew Reilly's *Secret Runners* of New York, Ransom Riggs's *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* and Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series.

Though a keen interest in writing had been present at a young age, author, T. D. Kuchel proclaims that, *The Passage of Conquest* did not come from the intention to produce a novel. Instead it is the product of a moment's inspiration that was conceived during a fateful evening in paradise.

With the former passion latent in mind, T. D. Kuchel boarded a plane for Hamilton Island in April 2010, with his girlfriend of four months and an engagement ring in his pocket.

The following evening, whilst sailing alongside Whitsunday Island during sunset, he gazed deeply into the swirl below and found himself imagining –

“What if somebody fell off the yacht into one of the whirlpools? And what if a key was hanging from that person's neck with the power to transport them to another world, and it was activated upon impact..?” This wasn't a common practice for Kuchel. However, he had been reading more than usual and was beginning to struggle to find a book of interest. As a result, he began compiling mental notes of what other stories were missing.

He didn't realise it at the time, but this thought was the spark that ignited  
the flame

As the week developed, T. D. Kuchel and his fiancé hiked and sailed every conceivable location in the Whitsundays, including a memorable boat ride aboard a hired dingy through churning waters to a small island.

“We won’t do that again in a boat so small,” he assures.

Upon returning home, amid wedding plans, Kuchel’s mind was stimulated with an accumulating plot.

“To be inspired to write again was empowering,” he says. “That was the moment I truly found myself and whom I once aspired to be. As children we dream and should be encouraged to dream. As an adult, I have found that happiness lies in realising our childhood dreams.”

Over the following months T. D. Kuchel worked on the plot no matter where he was, filling his pockets with scraps of paper, and then writing it all into countless notebooks at home.

“The plot just kept building in my mind and I had to get it out,” he says. The result is a fascinating adventure that contains everything, from time travel and parallel worlds to lost civilisations and immortality, yet remains attached to the real world by Kuchel’s fondness for the fashion and simplicity of past generations.

Despite his efforts, Kuchel initially intended his work to be nothing more than a present for his fiancé; a story inspired by the time they shared on the island. It was T. D. Kuchel’s father who encouraged him to pursue publication after stumbling upon a raw draft of the first two chapters.

T. D. Kuchel grew fond of sharing his story with the world. However, after establishing the plot, he estimated its length and feared that it may discourage potential readers.

“I know whenever a large novel is suggested to me; I’m less likely to invest my time unless it’s something I’m already interested in.”

T. D. Kuchel expects his prospective readers feel the same and wished to produce a book that is appealing in every way. Consequently, *The Passage of Conquest* became a trilogy.

In 2015 the first instalment was completed. By then Kuchel had long-since become a regular customer of The Raven’s Parlour book store in Tanunda. He recalls the day he offered former store manager, Colleen his manuscript to read.



“I was so nervous, having not yet let anyone outside my family read it,” Kuchel admits.

Colleen was however inspired by the manuscript and shared his enthusiasm enough to offer assistance until it was published.

“At times I think she knew it even better than I did,” he smiles. Needless to say, they formed a strong friendship.

Colleen aided Kuchel in establishing connections with numerous writers and other professionals in the industry before finally the manuscript went on to be edited by a London-based editor who worked extensively through every word.

“Still to this day, I have intended to achieve nothing more than to write my favourite story,” T. D. Kuchel says. “I am proud to honestly say that I have succeeded.”

With the first manuscript completed, T. D. Kuchel was encouraged to continue writing before seeking a publisher. This was to avoid both a delay in the second books release and any pressure that may have altered the outcome of the series. With book two completed and the final instalment well on its way, T. D. Kuchel sought a suitable publisher.

*The Passage of Conquest* is now scheduled for world-wide release on the 15th of April, with Paperback and digital pre-orders available now from [www.tdkuchel.com](http://www.tdkuchel.com). To mark the occasion, T. D. Kuchel will feature in a live interview with popular Romanian influencer, James Trevino. Simply follow @James\_trevino on Instagram to tune in.

Prior to the official release, books will be exclusively available at a pre-release launch party at the Peter Lehmann cellar door on Wednesday the 13th of April. Tickets for the event will be made available in March. All will be welcome to attend for an evening of discussion and celebration.

Until then, subscribe to [www.tdkuchel.com](http://www.tdkuchel.com) for regular updates.