REVIEW  OF THIRSTY HEART  
BY BRETT GIBSON

It is so refreshing to have a book which presents desert spirituality set in a uniquely Australian context.“This Thirsty Heart” takes us on a week long journey with a group of people, from various walks of life, through Australia's heart. The characters are fictitious, the stories they embody are true.  
  
The experiences of the characters on their journeys really challenge the view held by many people that the desert is a barren, God-forsaken place. In contrast, the experiences the adventurers have indicate strongly that the desert is full of life in abundance. In presentation the book is stunning. Beautiful photographs that various people have taken on their own journey through the desert accompany the story and really add to the reading experience.  
  
The book has multiple layers of depth. It is set in the physical desert, and the  
characters are confronted with the savage beauty of the place and all of the dangers of being in the wilderness. From the personal journeys, to the Aboriginal peoples' spirituality, the first immigrants , the desert environment and God's desert story, we really discover the significance of the desert in all of its capacities.  
  
Author, Ian Robinson, makes the point that when we are confronted with the desert in its physical and spiritual forms, transformation can occur. We are encouraged to pursue a simpler form of living, free of greed and materialism. The desert experience evokes good fellowship and support and loving of our neighbour. Above all it offers a means of getting in touch with our greater Source, and through that becoming more deeply human.  
  
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