

The Colonial Mortuary Bard; "'Reo," The Fisherman; and The Black Bream of Australia /

Becke, Louis (
1855-1913.)
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"The Colonial Mortuary Bard; 'Reo,' The Fisherman; and The Black Bream of Australia" by Louis Becke is a collection of narratives that blends humor, storytelling, and vivid depictions of life in colonial Australia, likely written in the early 20th century. This book explores themes of mortality, survival, and the complexities of human interactions within a colonial setting, offering insight into the lives of various characters, including sailors, fishermen, and common folk of the era. The book comprises three distinct parts. The first section, "The Colonial Mortuary Bard," presents amusing and poignant excerpts of mortuary poetry from visitors to significant historical sites, using engaging prose to reflect on how people memorialize the deceased in a light-hearted manner. The second section, "'Reo,' The Fisherman," follows the adventures of 'Reo, a wily Malayan fisherman who navigates cultural expectations and personal ambition, highlighting his cleverness in fishing and interactions with both his community and relatives. Lastly, "The Black Bream of Australia" reminisces about the author's youth spent fishing for bream, illustrating the beauty of the Australian landscape and the joy of fishing through rich descriptions, while also capturing the innocence of childhood and the complexities of local fish-catching culture. Together, these narratives encapsulate the nuanced social fabric of colonial life intertwined with vivid imagery of nature and humor. (This is an automatically generated summary.)

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