

# MEDIA RELEASE

## BOY ON A WIRE

JON DOUST

LONGLISTED, MILES FRANKLIN AWARD 2010

'In the long literary historical view – when time is given to take it – this will seem another small, but significant shift in the social reckonings that Australian fiction makes.'

*Canberra Times*

'From the opening sentence, it is clear that we are in the presence of a writer with a distinctive voice and uncanny ability to capture the bewilderment and burgeoning anger of a boy struggling to remain true to himself ... If you know an angry teenager, give this to him.'

*The Age*

'The distinctive, masterfully inhabited adolescent narrator recalls the narrator in darkly funny coming-of-age memoir *Hoi Polloi* (Craig Sherborne)—as does the juxtaposition of stark naivety and carefully mined knowingness.'

*Bookseller+Publisher*

'...a hilarious, angry and sympathetic portrait of boys behaving badly, teeming with sadistic bullies, imperfect heroes, adolescent onanists and ice-cream gorging hedonists.'

*The West Australian*

### ABOUT THE BOOK

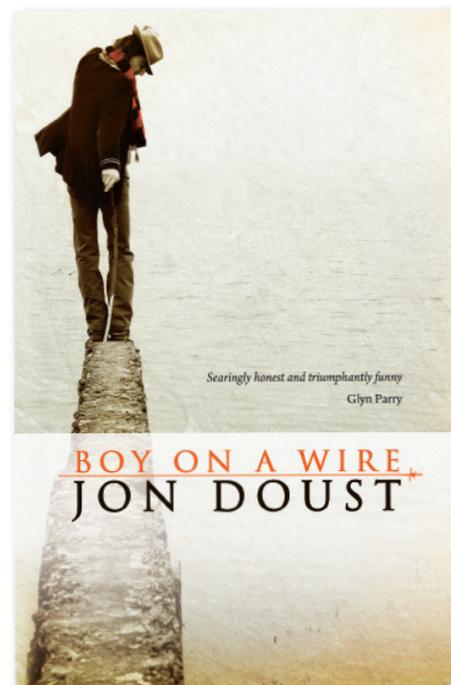
Dedicated to all those boys who carried their scars into manhood, *Boy on a Wire* is about an underdog who bites back. Sent to boarding school at a young age Jack Muir quickly has to decide who he is going to be. Will he roll over or bare his teeth at the bullies, the bullied and the boarding school system? Jack gets by with a quick wit and a macabre sense of humour—but not everyone is so lucky. *Boy on a Wire* depicts alienation and the beginnings of depression with poignancy and humour.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jon Doust was born in Bridgetown WA a long time ago when the world was a bit cooler. He was sent to boarding school in the early 60s, which he survived with a sharp tongue and a short fuse. He has a BA in English from Curtin University and over the years has tried his hand at banking, journalism, farming and comedy. His latest book *To the Highlands* will be released in August 2012.

### KEY POINTS

- *Boy on a Wire* was longlisted for a Miles Franklin Award in 2010.
- Doust's new book is *To the Highlands* (August 2012).
- Author is a well known stand-up comedian and performer who has participated in the Sydney Writers Festival.
- Parts of the novel have been performed in a show called *Bleeding Sore*.



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