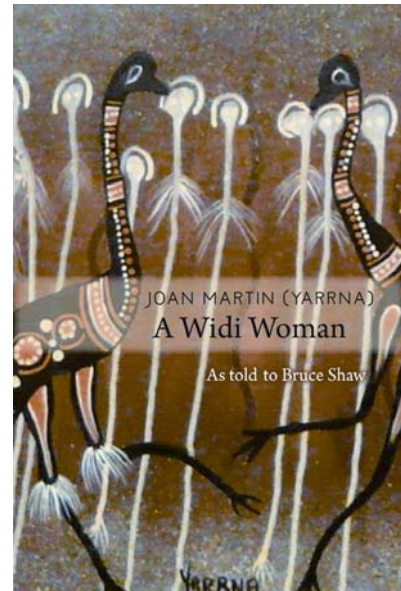


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Title:	Joan Martin (Yaarna)
Subtitle:	A Widi woman
Author(s)	Joan Martin, as told to Bruce Shaw
Format	230x152mm
Extent	192pp, b/w illus
RRP	\$34.95
ISBN	9780855757779
Bookshelf categories	Biography, Australian history Women's life stories
BIC categories	HBJM, HBDT



Book blurb

Joan Martin was born in the country town of Morawa, Western Australia, in 1941. She was a proud Widi woman whose traditional territory extended from Geraldton eastwards into the salt-lake area. Joan led an exciting and adventurous life, from life in the bush to school in Perth, and back again. But it was a life with great challenges, including efforts to avoid Native Welfare, so as not to be shipped off to a mission, and her later very public battle with Homeswest for the right to live in peace in her own home. Her legacy includes her work on native title, and her art.

Joan's stories reveal interconnected themes: visiting family, teaching bush lore to her children, passing on Dreaming stories, celebrating culture through her art, along with conflicts with mining companies and white bureaucracies.

There is a poignant balance between her love of country with its expression through her art, and the victories and mischance of her life.

Author

Joan Martin told her life to Bruce Shaw to whom she entrusted the task of having her story published. Joan's story is told without acrimony; rather it's a matter-of-fact description of a hard life which acknowledges the highs and lows. Bruce Shaw is the co-author of several books of Aboriginal life stories, was an expert witness in the first Miriuwung Gajerrong trial in 1977 and later worked with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

Selling Points

- Complements the emerging area of Indigenous life stories. Joan's life is unique in other ways: her art, her work on native title, her battles with white bureaucracies.
- Topicality of a life story centring on the care and protection of traditional Aboriginal country — continued relevance to the preservation of the environment and its relationship to mining.
- Skill of rendering oral history — Bruce Shaw's capacity to render Joan's stories and colloquial style into an accessible, readable narrative, told without rancour or blame.

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