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‘Caught by the bomb’

In the 1950s, Jessie Lennon and her family were caught by fallout from the British nuclear tests at Emu, north of Maralinga. Although they fled, they could not escape the long-term effects on their health. Decades later, Jessie and Senior Elders in the community took up an unsuccessful fight for compensation.

This second edition of *I'm the One* includes an essay by social anthropologist Maggie Brady, who researched the lifestyle of Aboriginal people in the vicinity of the Maralinga atomic test sites in preparation for, and following, the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia.

For much of her long life Jessie lived and worked in the vast desert regions of South Australia. This was her country, and from a young age she knew it intimately.

She travelled with her family: on foot, on camels and sometimes ‘jumping the train’, later seeking whitefella work in towns on sheep and cattle stations. Many times Jessie’s travel brought her back to Coober Pedy where she lived in camps, underground dugouts and on the mine dumps.

In *I'm the One That Know This Country!* we gain an Anangu perspective of adaptation during first contact with Europeans, as well as the settler perspective. Jessie wrote for her family – and for those who ‘don’t yet know these things’.

Jessie Lennon is a natural storyteller and in *I'm the One...* her stories are complemented by historical photographs and detailed captions of the times, places and people in her life. A vivid picture emerges of the importance of ‘home’.



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