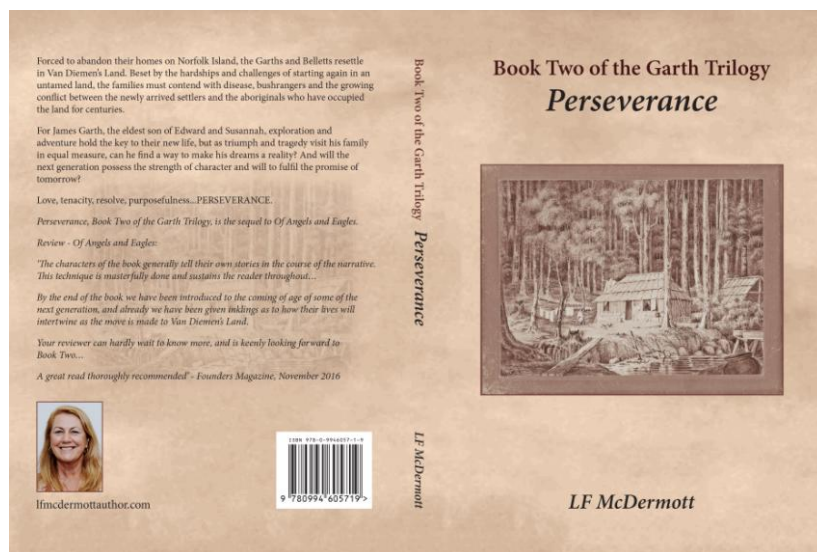


L F (Lynette) McDermott, *Perseverance*, Book 2 of the Garth Trilogy, [Lynette McDermott](#), Sydney, 2017, ISBN: 978-0- 9946057-1-9, \$29.99 plus \$8.00 postage within Australia, 360pp, paperback.

The Garth Trilogy is a series of historical novels which tell the story of two First Fleet convict families, the Garths and the Belletts, first transported to Sydney then on to Norfolk Island and finally to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) when the convict settlement on Norfolk Island closed down. The first novel in the series, *Of Angels and Eagles*, looks at their convictions and their time on Norfolk Island. *Perseverance* is the second volume and takes up the story after the two families have resettled in Tasmania. Book 3 *Lil* is yet to be published.



I like reading historical Australian novels and *Perseverance* was no exception. What made it more interesting for me was that we too have convict ancestors who were on Norfolk Island - Samuel Pyers married Sarah Johnson there and had several children before being moved on to Tasmania. No doubt the families all knew each other as the Island is not that big.

I have always wondered what it was like for our family to start all over again. Yes they had land grants but they still had to build new homes, start new gardens and find new jobs. Thanks to Lynette's writing about her own families' experiences, their loves and their grief at losing family members I can easily imagine that it was a similar experience for our family.

This is an historical novel not a family history so we have dialogue and emotions not usually found in a family history which is mostly reliant on official documents unless you are lucky enough to have surviving letters and diaries.

Perseverance is a standalone novel but I wondered how someone not familiar with the history of the first convict settlement on Norfolk Island might find the novel. Perhaps a brief synopsis of Book 1, *Of Angels and Eagles*, might help a totally new reader. It is for sale from the author's website <https://www.lfmcdermottauthor.com>, for the same price, for those who like to read serial novels in original order.

Anyone with early convict families in New South Wales, Norfolk Island and Tasmania will find these historical novels an interesting and easy read. The books will leave you thinking about what it was like for your own families to start new lives in a strange land.

More information is available on Lynette McDermott's website and both books can be ordered online.

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