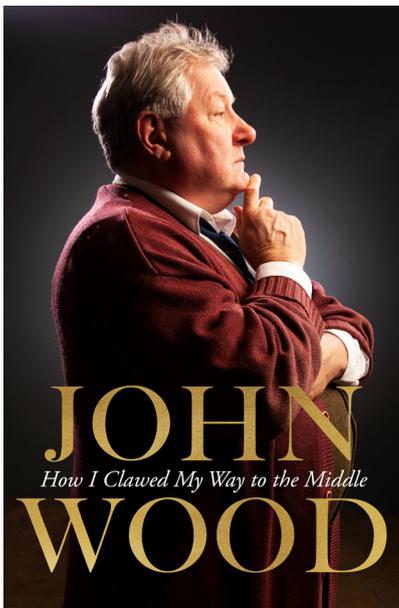


How I Clawed My Way to the Middle

JOHN WOOD

Viking | RRP \$34.99 | Trade Paperback | 4 August 2020 | Available as an audiobook via Audible



'On stage is where
I feel most alive,
engaged and sure of
my place in the world.'

A delightful peek behind the curtains at the life of **John Wood**, one of Australia's most beloved actors.

From working class beginnings in Melbourne through to rubbing shoulders with some of the best and brightest in Australia's acting scene, John takes the reader on an enchanting jaunt through his childhood to his time on the silver screen.

Tales of running money to the head office of Victorian Railways—with gun in tow—or working in the cold bowels of an abattoir provides glimpses into John's humble origins. Whilst stories of participating in seances and seeing The Beatles live at Festival Hall reveal snippets of his life in Melbourne in a bygone era.

John treads the boards of Australia's most prominent theatres in the plays of our most acclaimed playwrights and directors, Williamson, Bell and Sumner to name but a few, until finally his time on television as familiar faces Michael Rafferty of *Rafferty's Rules* and Tom Croydon from *Blue Heelers*. All of which is threaded with the uncertainty of an actor's life; surviving on a six dollar a week scholarship at NIDA, being parted from his young family for months at a time due to filming to each lull in work that causes John's sense of self worth to plummet.

Like the man himself, *How I Clawed my Way to the Middle* is unpretentious, funny and charming.



John Wood has been a part of the Australian entertainment industry for over 40 years earning himself a long list of credits for varied roles on stage and screen.

As a regular face on Australian television, John has become a national favourite among all age groups. He is well-known for his roles as Tom Croydon in *Blue Heelers* and Michael Rafferty in *Rafferty's Rules*.

His stage career has included everything from Shakespeare to Williamson and a few musicals in between, again winning a number of Best Actor awards along the way.

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