



Out of the Line of Fire: Text Classics

Mark Henshaw

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Winner, 1988 Barbara Ramsden Award

Winner, 1989 NBC Qantas New Writers Award

Winner, 1994 ACT Literary Award

When Wolfi, a brilliant young philosophy student, begins recounting his life - from his inquisitorial father and passionate mother, to his eccentric grandmother who paid for his sexual initiation with the beautiful Andrea - we are lured into a mysterious and erotic maze. But what in fact is fact, and what in fiction is fiction? Brilliantly seductive, *Out of the Line of Fire* was the literary sensation of the year when it was first published, in 1988.

Mark Henshaw has lived in France, Germany, Yugoslavia and the USA. He currently lives in Canberra. His first novel, *Out of the Line of Fire* (1988), won the FAW Barbara Ramsden Award and the NBC New Writers Award. It was one of the biggest selling Australian literary novels of the decade and has been rereleased as a Text Classic. *The Snow Kimono* won the 2014 NSW Premier's Award for Fiction and Mark Henshaw was the 2015 winner of the Copyright Agency's Author Fellowship.

'A dazzling debut. A tour de force. This book is imaginative, virtuosic, and awesomely assured. It is compulsive reading.' Don Anderson

'Experimental, extraordinary... Out of the Line of Fire, published in 1988, remains one of my favourite Australian novels.' Stephen Romei, Australian

'An Australian writer heads to Germany, where he gets strong doses of philosophy, violence, taboo sex, and unreliable narration...The novel feels like an id laid bare, and Henshaw keeps the story in line while constantly pointing out the limitations of words to capture reality. A remarkable and brainy work of metafiction.' STARRED Review, *Kirkus*



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