

MADELEINE: A Life of Madeleine St John by HELEN TRINCA

Madeleine St John was in her fifties when she wrote her first novel, *The Women in Black*—a sparkling gem set in post-war Sydney. But its charm belied the terrible sadness that defined its author. When Madeleine was twelve her beautiful, sophisticated French mother died, and Madeleine's life changed irreparably.

She struggled through her teenage years, her university days, her marriage, and beyond. But through the darkness came four brilliant works of fiction, including *The Essence of the Thing*, which was shortlisted for the 1997 Booker Prize.

Helen Trinca has captured Madeleine St John's troubled life in this moving account of a remarkable writer. *Madeleine* is a story of tragedy, of love and of perseverance—a portrait of the essence of creativity.