I should tell you, Dear Reader, that I have not swum out to sea, nor joined the crew of the Rattlesnake, nor cast a hammerhead shark, nor eaten the brains of a cuscus, nor been captured by head-hunters, had it not been for the cold-blooded cruelty of my Aunt Bertha.

In the spring of 1891, thirteen-year-old Sam Silverthorne is left in the care of his heartless Aunt Bertha as his father, Sir Arthur Silverthorne, Ornithologist to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, sets out on an expedition to find the infamous silver bird of paradise. But when Sir Arthur disappears without a trace, Sam runs away and embarks on a journey to find him. Nothing could prepare Sam for the dangerous, violent and unpredictable world that awaits him, and the search for his father quickly becomes a fight for his own life.

Gary Crew is one of Australia's most acclaimed authors. He has won the Australian Children's Book of the Year Award four times, as well as numerous other prestigious awards including the Victorian Premier's Literary Award, the Edgar Allan Poe Mystery Fiction Award, and the Aurealis Award for science-fiction.

'Gary Crew is taking writing for young people in Australia into new territory'
AGNES NIEUWENHUIZEN