

TERRA AUSTRALIS

LF Bollée & Philippe Nicloux



Based on the real-life voyage of discovery of Admiral Arthur Phillip, who became the first Governor of New South Wales and founder of Sydney, TERRA AUSTRALIS is a dramatic historical account tracing the First Fleet's epic nine-month journey, from its departure from London in 1787 to the early attempts at establishing a new settlement.

Written by Laurent-Frédéric Bollée, illustrated by Philippe Nicloux, both respected authors of the successful French comic books scene, and published to coincide with Admiral Phillip's bicentenary, this is a 500-page cinematic-scale epic that moves from the festering squalour of Newgate prison to the claustrophobic confines of the ships and the natural beauty of Botany Bay. The narrative and illustrations flow with expressionistic drama, highlighting the social climate of the late 18th century, and depicting the characters and landscapes in equal detail.

Bollée has maintained a life-long fascination for Australia and began working on this five-year project in 2007. His research drew on a wealth of reference books and personal accounts from the period, giving added authenticity to the project. Many of Phillip's officers are featured, including diarist Lieutenant Ralph Clark, Lieutenant-General Watkin Tench, who published accounts of that first settlement, and Major Robert Ross, governor of Norfolk Island. True historical figures such as Bennelong, the first indigenous person to be taught English, and French explorer La Pérouse are interwoven into the drama along with stories of real-life convicts including young thief John Hudson and Caribbean-born John Caesar.

The book is divided in three chapters. After a Prologue where we can discover how two worlds (English vs Natives) will collide, certainly in pain, the first part takes us back to the early 1780s. Here we meet La Pérouse, Lord Sydney or Arthur Phillip before they embark on a remarkable journey to the other side of the world. This is also here that we learn why the British authorities have decided to create a colony at so-called Botany Bay...

Chapter 2 could be also named as 'The Voyage' as we go aboard the First Fleet and discover, almost in a day-to-day style, what happened during such an incredible journey. From Tenerife to Port Jackson via Rio and Capetown, this is where History and personal stories could meet.

Chapter 3 tells us the first months of the colony, and how hard it has been to settle and give birth to a new country. Most of all, we can follow the difficult, if not impossible, relationships between the newcomers and the original inhabitants of this land...

Finally, in a moving Epilogue, we are able to discover how the main characters of this 'adventure' have ended their lives – sometimes brilliantly, often sadly...

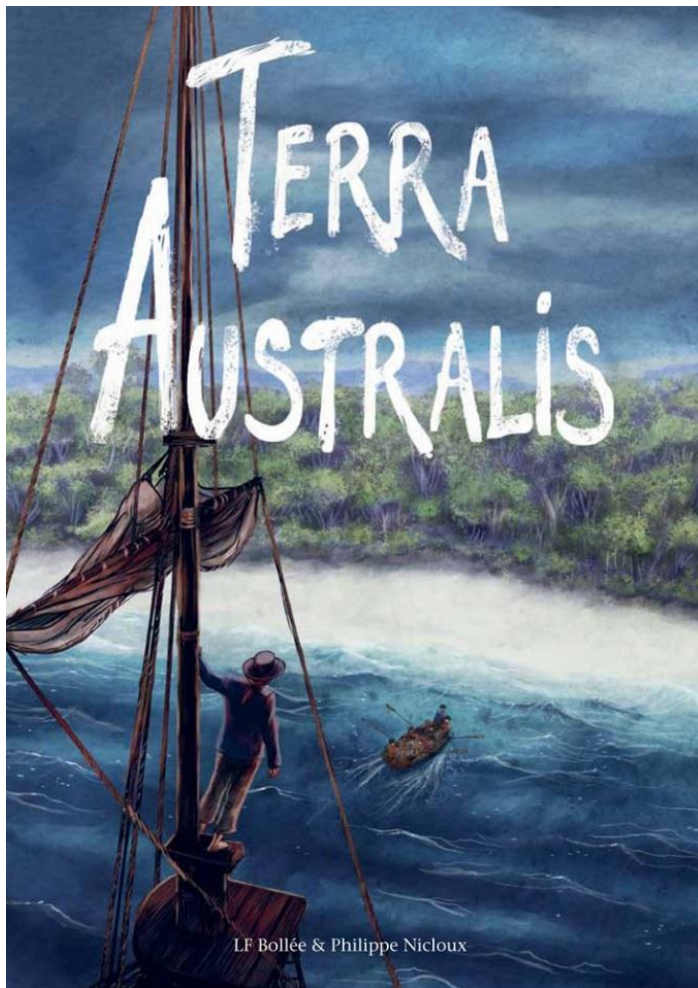
TERRA AUSTRALIS... in numbers:

63 months of work

492 pages purely visual

512 pages in total

2,368 panels!



English edition by Self Made Hero

ISBN 978-1-906838-75-1

B&W Paperback w/ flaps

RRP £16.99 | 512pp

Published February 2014

... and to be released in March 2017 : TERRA DOLORIS, the 'sequel' of Terra Australis, a 300-page new graphic novel retracing the years 1792-99 in early Sydney and beyond.