

The Wilderness by Samantha Harvey



It is Jake's birthday he is sitting in a small plane, being flown over the landscape that has been the backdrop to his life - his childhood, his marriage, his work, and his passions. Now he is in his early 60s, and he isn't quite the man he used to be. He has lost his wife, his son is in prison, and he is about to lose his past. Jake has Alzheimer's. As the disease takes hold of him, Jake struggles to hold on to his personal story, to his memories and identity, but they become increasingly elusive and unreliable. What happened to his daughter? Is she alive, or long dead? And why exactly is his son in prison? What went so wrong in his life? There was a cherry tree once, and a yellow dress, but what exactly do they mean? From the first sentence to the last *The Wilderness* holds us in its powerful grip.