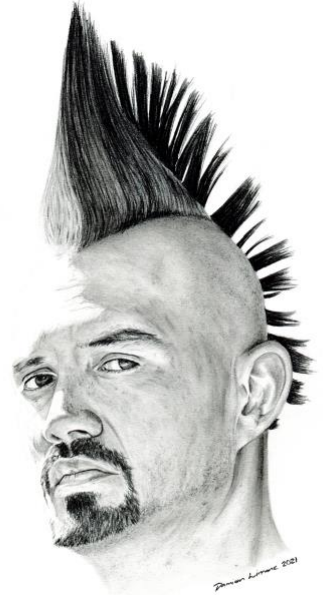


Damien Linnane

Activist. Artist. Author.

Damien Linnane was born in Sydney, Australia. His debut novel, *Scarred*, was written by hand while he was in prison serving a two-year sentence for crimes the sentencing magistrate described as 'vigilante action'. Since his release from prison he has become editor of the prison magazine *Paper Chained*, and is currently completing a PhD in law. He is also an illustrator, freelance writer and activist for incarcerated persons.



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Published works

Scarred

Publisher: Tenth Street Press

Released: 28 November 2019

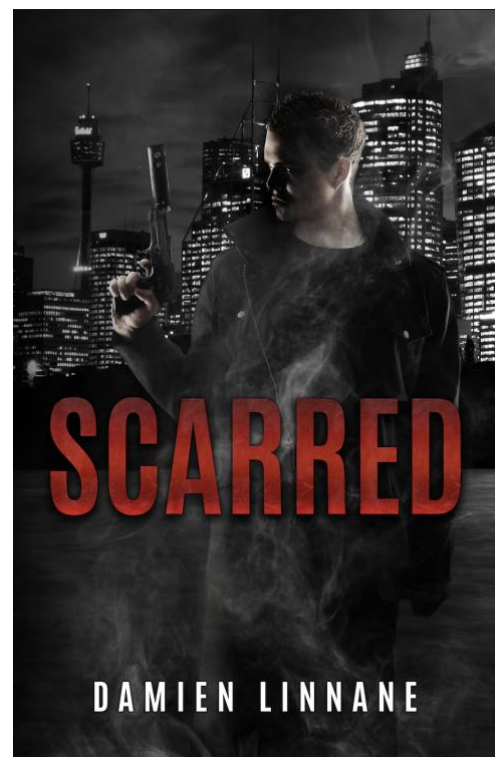
ISBN: 978-0-6484802-4-2

Genre: Crime/thriller, vigilante justice, serial killer

Print length: 462 pages

Formats: Paperback, Kindle, eBook

Scarred is distributed in Australia by [Ingram](http://Ingram.com) and is available for order in most bookstores. Visit [Booko](http://Booko.com) for a list of online sellers for the paperback version. *Scarred* is also available from eBook sellers including [Kindle](http://Kindle.com), [Kobo](http://Kobo.com) and Apple Books.



Published works

While he is a published novelist, Damien specialises in writing non-fiction, particularly with a focus on the prison system, and can cover other topics on request. He has ghost-written a now-published business book, and has been published in the peer-reviewed academic journal *Advances in Librarianship*.

Selected journalism

- Linnane, D. **You don't know isolation until you've been to prison.**
The Big Smoke, 13 September 2021
- Linnane, D. **How you see lockdown is a choice.**
Newcastle Weekly, 14 August 2021
- Linnane, D. **I've Been to Prison, Your Quarantine Hotel Is Nothing Like It.**
10 daily, 31 March 2020

Art

Self-taught while in prison, Damien specialises in graphite photorealistic portraits, and is an internationally exhibited artist. In 2021, he illustrated the book *This is Ear Hustle* under a contract with Random House.

Online links

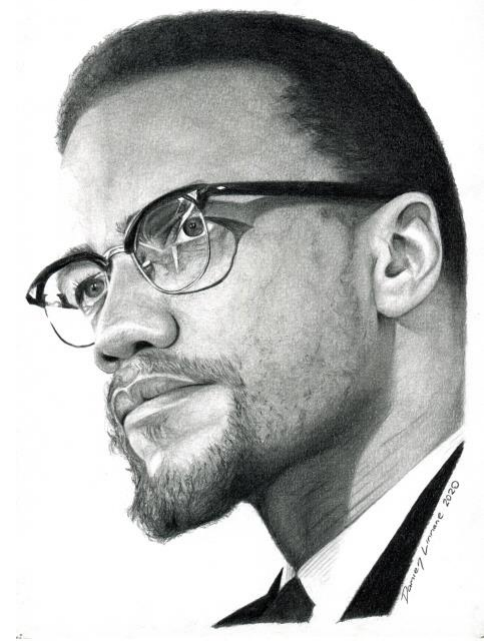
- [Flickr](#) gallery
- [Instagram](#) gallery
- [Time-lapse YouTube demonstration](#)

Activism

Damien lobbies for better access to education and rehabilitation services for incarcerated persons and involuntary mental health patients. He is available to give talks on the criminal justice system.

Online talks

- [Towards a World without Prisons: Part Two](#) (2-hour webinar)
- [Highlights from above webinar as aired on 4ZZZ radio Brisbane](#)



Press interviews

The following is a sample of interviews Damien has given in print, radio, podcast and video format. A full list can be found at his website by [clicking here](#).

Romensky, Larissa. '[Legal group urges Victoria to overturn ban on prison pen pal program](#)' in *ABC News*, 31 May 2018.

Hunt, Richelle; Linnane, Damien. '[Afternoons](#)' on *ABC Radio Melbourne*, June 4, 2018.

Lattouf, Antoinette. '[What Drives People to Become Pen Pals with Criminals?](#)' in *10 daily*, 3 May 2019.

Murphy, Ben. '[Former prisoner's book penned behind bars](#)' in *Newcastle Weekly*, 7 November 2019.

Rorke, Mark; Linnane, Damien. '[The Morning Show](#)' on *2NUR FM*, November 11, 2019.

Kellar, Jim. '[Newcastle writer Damien Linnane's ... brilliant debut fiction](#)' in *Newcastle Herald*, 17 November 2019.

'[Humans of Newcastle](#)' in *The Local*, 29 November 2019.

Gregoire, Paul. '[Prisoners Lives Are Still at Risk: An Interview With Ex-Inmate Damien Linnane](#)', in *Sydney Criminal Lawyers*, 8 May, 2020.

Tisdell, Lisa. '[Author Damien Linnane to talk about novel Scarred](#)' in *Port Macquarie News*, 29 August 2020.

Rae, Daizy; Berry, April; Linnane, Damien. '[Scarred – Damien Linnane](#)' in *Bare Books Podcast*, 29 September 2020.

Hennessey, Dick; Thibodeaux, Meg; Linnane, Damien. '[#122 Damien Linnane, Author](#)' in *Felony inc* podcast, 15 October 2020.

'[Meet the Convenor: Damien Linnane](#)' in *INCITE* magazine, Volume 41, November 2020.

'[Introducing Damien Linnane](#)' in *Nelson Public Libraries*, 11 November 2020.

Lugo, Emma; Linnane, Damien. '[Interview with Damien Linnane](#)' on *KBOO FM*, December 28, 2020

Law, Tim; Linnane, Damien. 'Author Talk with Damien Linnane' with *Murray Bridge Library*, February 15, 2021



Sample interview questions

No questions are off limits. Damien's only request for interviews is that if you choose to mention what he was incarcerated for, there needs to be context. I.e., 'Mr Linnane was imprisoned for arson, with the sentencing magistrate finding his motivation was vigilante action'. Damien can provide court documents to verify all aspects of his sentencing on request.

- Did prison live up to the expectations you may have had about it due to its portrayal in popular culture?
- What was the catalyst that made you want to write in prison?
- You were arrested for 'vigilante action', and the main character in your novel is a vigilante. How much of your novel is inspired by real events?
- You had to hide your novel from the guards in prison as it would have been confiscated because it contained violence. Can you tell us more about that? What other challenges were there writing in prison?
- Did writing your novel offer some form of escapism for you?
- You wrote an article for Network Ten about the lack of education and therapy for incarcerated persons. Do you think this lack of rehabilitation affects recidivism rates?
- Why lobby for better rights for prisoners? What do you say to people who think we shouldn't bother educating incarcerated people, and that prisons should focus entirely on punishment?
- You gave an interview for ABC radio about your participation in pen-pal programs in prisons around the world. Why do you continue to write to incarcerated people?
- You taught yourself to draw in prison, and now you've illustrated a book for Penguin Random House. How did you get started as an artist?
- You're now employed as editor of the prison magazine Paper Chained, which is distributed to over 5,000 incarcerated people. What made you get involved with that project?
- You're currently completing a PhD in law, focusing on barriers that people with disabilities face in prison. Is this related to your own experiences in custody?