



Hard by the Cloud House

PETER WALKER



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AUTHOR'S RESIDENCE:

Northland, New Zealand

AN EAGLE, AND ITS PLACE IN OUR HISTORY

The legend of Pouakai, aka the extinct Haast's Eagle, takes Peter Walker on a journey from an 1860s Canterbury sheep run to a deep cave near Karamea as he learns the story of the mighty hunter that inhabited a peak in the foothills of the Southern Alps. Was it the same creature as The Rukh of Arabic legends? And, if so, was that evidence that in the twelfth century Arabic and Chinese explorers ventured as far as the South Pacific, saw Pouakai, and traded with Māori?

From Kāi Tahu's fatal encounter with colonisation to the glories of tenth century Baghdad and ceremonies at the great Tahitian marae Taputapuātea, *Hard by the Cloud House* is a heady, powerful and seductive mix of history, memoir, science and myth, crafted by an esteemed writer. Creative non-fiction at its best.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter Walker is a New Zealand journalist. He grew up in Christchurch and began work at *The Dominion* in 1976 before leaving Wellington to work in Australia. He then moved to the UK in 1986 to work for newspapers including *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*, where he was foreign editor. He has also written for the *Financial Times* and *Granta*. He is the author of the acclaimed historical memoir *The Fox Boy* (Bloomsbury 2001) set in Taranaki, and a novel, *The Courier's Tale* (Bloomsbury 2010), set in the court of King Henry VIII, and *Some Here Among Us* (Bloomsbury, 2015), set in Wellington. In 2011 he was the Randell Cottage fellow. He now lives in the Far North.

SALES POINTS

- Gripping, fascinating book by an esteemed writer
- Ranges from Aotearoa to China and the Middle East
- Creative non-fiction at its best

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