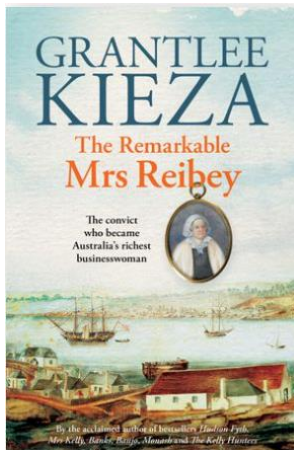


The Remarkable Mrs Reiby by Grantlee Kieza



Born into a respectable English middle class family Mary Reiby had received a good education.

However, in 1791 Mary was accused of stealing a horse & at just 14 years of age she was sentenced to death. This sentence was commuted to life in the penal colony of NSW where she arrived at 15 years of age.

It was not long before she met & married Tom Reiby, a trader who was sailing to exotic destinations & returning with cargos of goods which were desperately needed in the struggling town of Sydney. These goods could be sold making good profits. Tom & Mary quickly set about buying a boat of their own & this was the start of a very profitable business.

Mary was an astute business woman & a meticulous book keeper. She was also a mother to seven children & managed the business dealings while caring for her family while Tom was away on voyages to bring back the goods that were needed.

The story is of a family living in Sydney in the early Colonial era & has much detail about the historical events that shaped the Sydney of the time.

In an era where a convict past was still a stigma Mary managed to gain the respect of all those she dealt with & today we are reminded of this when she appears on the current \$20 note.

This book is excellently written & well researched as well as telling the story of Mary & her family.