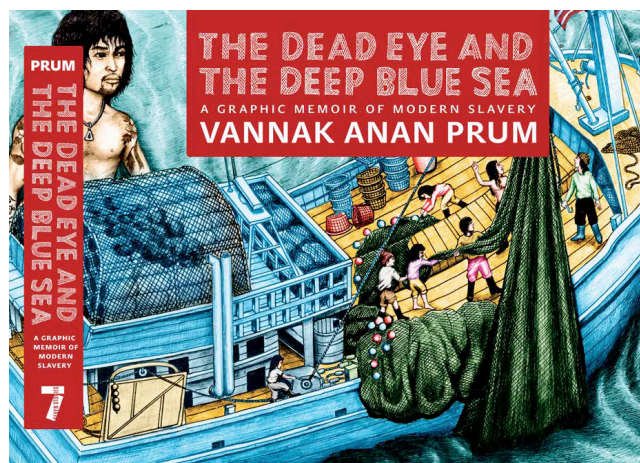


THE DEAD EYE AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA A Graphic Memoir of Modern Slavery

The Dead Eye and the Deep Blue Sea is the true story of a young Cambodian man, a gifted artist with a photographic memory, who is tricked and sold as a slave on a fishing boat, he must draw his way out to survive and find freedom.

The Dead Eye and the Deep Blue Sea is the memoir of Vannak Anan Prum, trafficked onto a fishing boat as a slave, who escaped only to be sold again by his rescuers to a plantation. After disappearing for five years, he returns to his disbelieving family and to prove his story, he recreates his experiences in a series of drawings.



Impoverished and unschooled, Prum Vannak has a perfect memory and a gifted illustrator's eye. This unique self-portrait and autobiography reveals an unimaginable underworld, and a profound story of survival.

In Cambodia, men and boys are lured to Thailand with the promise of work, and then sold to the captains of fishing boats to work at sea. For many, the journey to sea is a trip they will not survive. *The Dead Eye and the Deep Blue Sea* is an important story of people living outside citizenship, borders and basic human rights — told through the words and pictures of a unique artist.

AUTHOR TOUR

Vannak is touring Australia in late July to coincide with the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, July 30. Events include the Australian book launch of the *Dead Eye and the Deep Blue Sea* as part of the Anti-Slavery Taskforce, Archdiocese of Sydney's Eradicating Modern Slavery conference; a visit to the Sydney Fish Markets; a visit to Pilgrim church, Adelaide; a meeting with Australia's Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking in Canberra; participation in a panel at MIFF. For full details, see overleaf.

MEDIA CONTACT

Nikki Anderson, nikki.anderson@ozemail.com.au, 0405 539 055

Throughout this grim, moving testimony, Prum stresses the power of drawing. As a boy, he etches pictures in the dirt with a stick. Repeatedly in his travails, art saves him or wins him better treatment, including when he finally returns home after a daring escape, and cannot explain in words, but must show, what happened to him. — Hillary Chute, **NEW YORK TIMES**

The Dead Eye and the Deep Blue Sea is a story that illustrates how art underwrites freedom. In telling how freedom and art operate together work for mutual sustenance, Vannak tells a story that is larger than Thai fishing fleet slavery. — **SOUCIANT**

The Dead Eye and the Deep Blue Sea, Vannak Prum
Seven Stories Press via Random House Australia, available now ISBN 9781609806026

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR BIO

While looking for work on the Thai Cambodian border, **Vannak Anan Prum** was detained as a slave on a fishing boat, enduring hard labour and hellish treatment for four gruelling years. After making his escape by literally jumping ship, Vannak was sold by his 'rescuers' on the Malaysian coast to a plantation owner and police official. After another year of hard labour and imprisonment, a human rights organisation helped him finally return to his family.

At home in Cambodia, he drew pictures of what he remembered to explain his whereabouts during the course of his years as a modern-day slave. Though never formally educated or trained in art, Vannak has loved drawing since childhood from figures traced in the dirt, to tattoos etched into skin, to these pencil and ink illustrations detailing his personal odyssey.

In 2012 Prum was given a State Department Human Rights Defender Award, presented to him directly by then-US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Vannak has been commissioned by 7 Stories Press to work to create a second graphic novel about other survivors of human trafficking. He fights for the end of slavery with his art.

BOOK BACKGROUND

Vannak is in Australia as a guest of the Anti-Slavery Taskforce, Archdiocese of Sydney, and with GMB Films, who were critical in getting *Dead Eye and the Deep Blue Sea* published. GMB are now working with Vannak to adapt his book as an animated feature film.

Jocelyn Pederick, GMB Films: I first met Vannak while producing a series of short films on human trafficking across Asia in 2011. His story was astounding. He was constantly drawing to illustrate what he was saying. We both agreed that he should write a book. I looked for a publisher and Seven Stories showed immediate interest. The working title stuck: The Dead Eye and the Deep Blue Sea. All up, production took nearly four years.

We spent hundreds of hours translating, creating a huge document, hundreds of pages long and very roughly written. A lot appears verbatim in the final book, including, things like: 'even taking a shit was dangerous', surreal elements of storms, and bodies that 'felt like the ocean hadn't finished eating them'. Vannak's voice is so immediate; his presence is alive in the storytelling.

Once we had the whole story, Vannak took each chapter and drew illustrations with a caption box where he would write the story in Khmer. These were translated, edited and translated many times to ensure the clarity of Vannak's voice. The details of are profoundly important to Vannak, as he strived to make his book as accurate as possible.

The editor at Seven Stories have worked tirelessly with us, with many rounds of revisions, everything going back and forth in Khmer and English each time, until we had this amazing product – this testimony of one man's life – of slavery, but also escape, and of hope for the future for himself and other survivors.

TOUR DATES & EVENTS

Tues 30 July	Sydney	5-6 pm	Vannak Book launch, Anti-slavery Taskforce <i>World Day Against Trafficking in Persons</i>
Wed 31 July		AM	Sydney Fish Market - open
Thur 1 August	Canberra		Meeting with Senator Whish-Wilson - closed DFAT event – open to invitation Meeting with Ambassador for People Smuggling & Human Trafficking - closed
Sun 4 August	Adelaide		Pilgrim Adelaide
Wed 7 August	Melbourne	7-8pm	Book launch, Trades Hall
Thur 8 August		Lunchtime	TBC Brown bag lunch RMIT
Friday 9 August		TBC	Melbourne Khmer Community Event
Saturday 10 August		1.30- 2.30PM	Melbourne International Film Festival, South East Asian fishing industry panel