FOR THE
TERM OF
HIS
NATURAL
LIFE

The illustrations overleaf originally appeared in The Reader’s Digest edition of Marcus Clarke’s novel For the Term of His Natural Life*.

Marcus Clarke’s His Natural Life was first published in The Australian Journal 1870-1872. His powerful, complex work was a reflection of the brutal society of Australia’s early convict age.

Designed to accentuate the atmosphere created by the text the illustrations by Douglas Albion employed a stark black & white technique. Similar to wood or steel engravings this method incises, engraves lines into pre-prepared clay surfaced boards. The resulting reverse line work closely resembles the effect achieved by nineteenth century book engraver-illustrators.

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Above: Hells Gate entrance to Macquarie Harbour Prison 1833.
Left: Mutineers boat taken in tow.

Above right: P99.
Details of convicts on prison ship deck.
Detail of illustration (showing technique).
View of the notorious Port Arthur prison — Tasmania.