



Must read

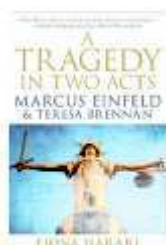
if you like digging behind the news



Twin souls brought down in cars

COMPLEX PAIR SHARED TRAITS

A TRAGEDY IN TWO ACTS: MARCUS EINFELD AND TERESA BRENNAN, BY FIONA HARARI, VICTORY BOOKS, RRP \$34.99, E-BOOK RRP \$21.82



VERDICT ★★★★★

IN all of Shakespeare's tragedies the hero is brought down by a fault in an otherwise admirable person, surmises one of Marcus Einfeld's former colleagues. Macbeth was too ambitious. Othello was a great man but too suggestible. I suppose there is a fault in all of us. In Marcus I suppose I would describe it as hubris: a feeling that I am untouchable and the rules do not apply to me. Fiona Harari has researched and presented grippingly the lives of two tragic Australians in her *A Tragedy in Two Acts Marcus Einfeld & Teresa Brennan*. She has interviewed countless friends and associates to paint a fascinating portrait of these two disparate, complex figures. They are linked by a pitiable lie by Einfeld to

evade a paltry speeding fine. Brennan is a wonderfully exuberant and unconventional academic sometimes at Cambridge, Amsterdam, Harvard, Brandeis, Cornell and finally Florida Atlantic University at Boca Raton. Harari tells of the endless stories about Brennan: her largesse and loyalty, her tendency to embellish details, the fact that she was invariably short of cash yet always managed to find loose change for champagne and cigarettes and a daring streak. She was wonderful company. In 2006, Einfeld, the better-known former judge, was caught speeding and inexplicably swore that Brennan was the driver though she had died in an unexplained car accident in the middle of a rain-soaked night three years earlier. As friends, Einfeld and Brennan shared many similarities: grandiosity, controversial and charismatic personalities and a knack of attracting attention.

CHRISTOPHER DAWSON

Buy *A Tragedy in Two Acts* at the Sunday Herald Sun reader price of \$26.99 including delivery anywhere in Australia. To order, visit heraldsun.com.au/shop or post a cheque or money order to: Book Offers, PO Box 14730, Melbourne, Victoria, 8001.