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thinking in place ‘violence must be understood within a context of the complex and specific intersections of the local and global’ (Chapter 14:205). Not pining for the kind of Village Courts our restorative justice or feminist theories tell us we should have had, but making something of the dispute resolution Melanesia does have. To give a flavour for these possibilities I have referred to only some of the chapters. The full flavour comes from reading it cover to cover, which I commend to readers.

The conference organised by Sinclair Dinnen of the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia project of the Australian National University on which this book is based was one of those rich exchanges of ideas rarely experienced. It was so refreshing to attend an event where so many of the central contributions were from Melanesian women. This volume does that conference justice and moves beyond it. The upshot is not just a book for Melanesianists, but for all who are concerned about violence and healing it.

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