

## **The Age Newspaper**

March 21, 2004 - 5:05PM

### **Author 'fabricated abuse claims'**

An Aboriginal author fabricated key elements of her bestselling account of her family's abuse at the hands of pioneer white landowners, it was alleged.

Judith Drake-Brockman, 83, said the abuse and mistreatment as detailed by Sally Morgan in her 1987 book *My Place* did not occur.

"It hurt me to think that she could write such absolute fabricated tripe about my family. Of course it hurt," she said on the Nine Network's Sunday program.

In *My Place*, Ms Morgan detailed the history of her family on the remote Drake-Brockman property Corunna Downs in Western Australia's Pilbara region.

She detailed a history of exploitation at the hands of the Drake-Brockmans with her grandmother Daisy forced to work from dawn to dusk as a virtual slave.

But what angered the Drake-Brockman family was the claim that Howden Drake-Brockman, Judith's father, was also the father of Daisy.

Further, it suggests that Howden committed incest with Daisy to father Gladys, the mother of Sally Morgan.

Ms Drake-Brockman told the program that the allegations made her want to throw up.

"That was not possible," she said. "He and my mother were living together so happily, happily in the same bed, double bed always.

"Just about the time that Gladys would have been conceived, my father was going through a very bad time with the station and he wasn't well at all.

"And, of course, it was during that time that he had his stroke."

Members of the Drake-Brockman family have challenged Ms Morgan to undertake a DNA test to determine if they are related.