



SPARKING
IMAGINATION,
CONVERSATION
& CHANGE

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR
October 2024

Agence Littéraire Lora Fountain
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Pantera Press — taking on the world...

Pantera Press is a relatively young and leading independent book publisher, based in Sydney, created to champion writing culture and literacy in Australia with a clear community and cultural purpose. We use our profits to fund charities and not-for-profits that encourage reading and work to close the literacy gap in Australia.

Pantera was named a 2023 Heatseeker by Neilsen Bookscan, an award that recognises the leading independent publishers showing both short-term and long-term growth. Pantera is the only publisher to be named a Heatseeker for 7 consecutive years. We have also been shortlisted 7 times for the Australian Book Industry Small Publisher of the Year award.

We publish a bespoke list of books that fit with our mission to spark imagination, conversation and change. This includes non-fiction books that matter, fiction across the range from commercial to literary, as well as children's and YA titles.

Pantera is an imprint of Hardie Grant, an award-winning independent publisher.

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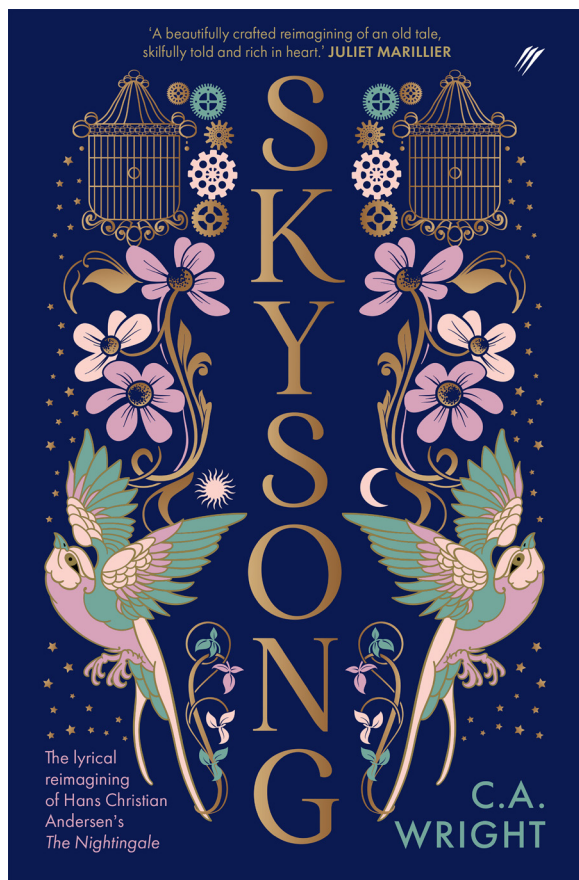
Pantera Press is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



Australian Government



Upcoming Adult Fiction



Pub Date: October 2024

ISBN: 9780645869057

Category: Fantasy Fiction

Format: Paperback C 234mm x 153mm

Extent: 360pp

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Audio (Bolinda)

A beautiful lyrical retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's
The Nightingale.

Oriane is the skylark, and the sun only rises if she wills it.

Every morning, she transforms from woman to bird, calling the dawn with her song. Seclusion has kept her safe her whole life – but it has also left her lonely, and craving freedom. When Oriane finally succumbs to the lure of the wild unknown, she is discovered in the gardens of the royal palace, where she is taken in by the king and treated like a goddess – and a prisoner.

Embroiled in a battle of faith and politics, Oriane yearns to return to her safe, simple life. A growing danger surrounds the palace, and the skylark and her gift are at its centre. But within the whispers, Oriane learns something she never expected: she may not be as alone as she thought. There may be another like her.

The nightingale.

'(Skysong is) a beautifully crafted reimagining of an old tale, skilfully told and rich in heart.'
Juliet Marillier, author of the Sevenwaters and Blackthorn & Grim series

'A feather-bright and sweetly-sung re-telling. Beautiful!'
Kell Woods, author of After the Forest

About the Author



CA Wright is a fiction writer and book editor. After studying English literature, writing and editing at university, she established a successful freelance editing career, working with authors to prepare their books for publication by day while writing her own fiction by night.

As a reader, Claire is drawn to books that sweep you off your feet with immersive worlds and lyrical storytelling. As a writer, she's inspired by authors like Victoria Schwab, Naomi Novik and Marie Rutkoski, and strives to create character-driven stories told through prose that begs to be savoured. Claire lives with her husband in the beachside city of Newcastle, New South Wales. *Skysong* is her first novel.



*She has lived only in shadows, but now she must step
into the light*

The day Zinha is inducted into the Baleful, an assassin guild spoken of only in whispers, she is chosen for a dangerous assignment. The King wishes to invade the neighbouring country of Maetora, but he must first neutralise their ruler – and her dangerous magic.

Zinha infiltrates The Trial of Power, a competition during which the Maetoran Heir chooses his consort. As a contestant, Zinha must seduce the Heir, uncover his mother's secrets and topple their kingdom from within. But Heir Reyher is not what she expected, and neither are the Maetorans. Especially Mateo, a fellow contestant with his own secrets and plans for the future.

As Zinha gains more distance from the darkness of her previous life, doubts begin to surface about everything she's been told. When rumours of a rival assassin threaten her success – and the lives of the people she has come to love – Zinha is forced to choose between the powerful bonds of her past and the fragile hope of an unexpected future. Because time is running out, and the Baleful live by only one rule:

Succeed or die.

About the Author



Before finding her home in the book industry and as an author, Bronwyn spent some time in the military, studied Linguistics at university and travelled a lot. She is obsessed with all things medieval, music, fitness and her dog Ruby. Currently lives in Edinburgh, but is Australian .

Pub Date: April and September 2025
ISBN: 9781763516458
Category: Fantasy Fiction
Format: Paperback C 234mm x 153mm
Extent: 400pp
Rights Held: World
Rights Sold: ANZ Audio (Bolinda)



Pub Date: March 2025

ISBN: 9780648619093

Category: Crossover Fiction

Format: Paperback C 234mm x 153mm

Extent: 330pp

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ Audio (Wavesound)

In 1990, Vijay and Indu leave India for Australia, seeking a better life for their family. But the move isn't easy on anyone. Not gentle Indu who becomes disconnected from her family and her life; nor the ambitious Vijay, who finds himself unmoored in a culture he doesn't understand. At the centre is Archana, their quiet daughter, for whom a growing understanding of her own queerness grates against the realities of her life.

Years later, Arch lives her ideal solitary, isolated life. When her brother calls to say that Vijay is unwell and needs her help, Arch has no choice but to re-enter the world. Using her pain as a shield from connection, Arch goes about her family duty. But a chance meeting leads to the potential of a new start – if only she is willing to take a risk and let in some light.

'Haunting and heartbreaking, Rai's debut novel deftly weaves a tale of guilt and atonement. The ghost of grief lingers through every page, and the trauma of the past is ever present. And yet, *An Onslaught of Light* is just that – a powerful journey from alienation to connection, from loneliness to love, from darkness to light....Rai portrays the slow, hard work of healing with such authenticity it hurts to read.'

Shankari Chandran, Miles Franklin winner

About the Author



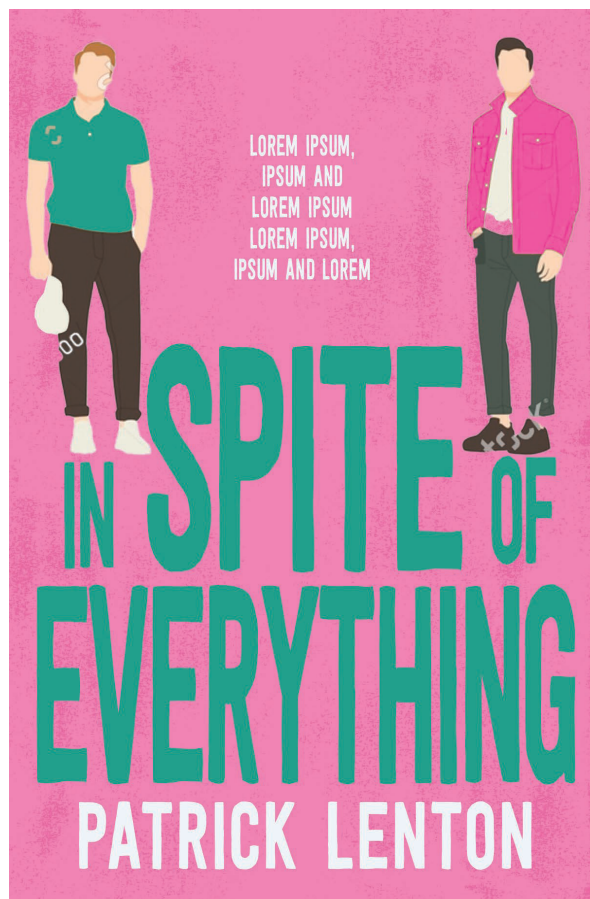
Natasha, an Indian-Australian woman, was born in India, migrating to Australia with her parents at the age of ten. She lived in the UK for several years as an adult, and the influence of three homes features in her writing.

Her work has appeared in Australia's first #MeToo anthology, *Enough*, about gender violence, *Overland*, *Verity La*, *StylusLit*, and New-York based *Adelaide* magazine. Her first novel, *An Onslaught of Light*, was longlisted for the 2017 Richell Prize, the 2018 KYD Unpublished Manuscript award, and was highly commended for the Ultimo Press/Westwords 2020 Prize.

'*An Onslaught of Light* is a mesmerising, insightful, heartfelt novel about grief, belonging and the sometimes unbearable weight of expectations. The writing is so assured, the characters so real and the emotional tension so expertly sustained that it's hard to believe this is Natasha Rai's debut novel. I read it fast, in huge, hungry gulps and finished it knowing that Arch, Indu, Vijay and Sunny will be with me for a very long time. Exquisite.'

Emily Maguire

PROOF COVER



Pub Date: May 2025

ISBN: 9780648619079

Category: Commercial Romantic Fiction

Format: Paperback C 234mm x 153mm

Extent: 320pp

Rights Held: World

**Don't get mad. Get hot – and get even.
Revenge is a dish best served hot and spicy.**

When Jeremy is invited to the 10-year reunion of his prestigious writing program, his life is a horrible mess. He's a lowbrow pop-culture journalist, he's single and he now has to face his cheating ex-boyfriend – the reunion's guest of honour.

Like any well-adjusted individual, Jeremy develops a revenge plan: become fit and attractive and, most importantly, find a handsome and successful boyfriend to bring to the reunion.

Enter Sam – irritatingly perfect, disgustingly hot and generous to a fault – who agrees to help with Jeremy's scheme. At first Jeremy is pretty sure that he's straight. But when Sam suggests they start fake-dating each other, the simmering tension between them threatens to boil over. Now Jeremy must choose between nursing his grudges and giving himself another chance at love.

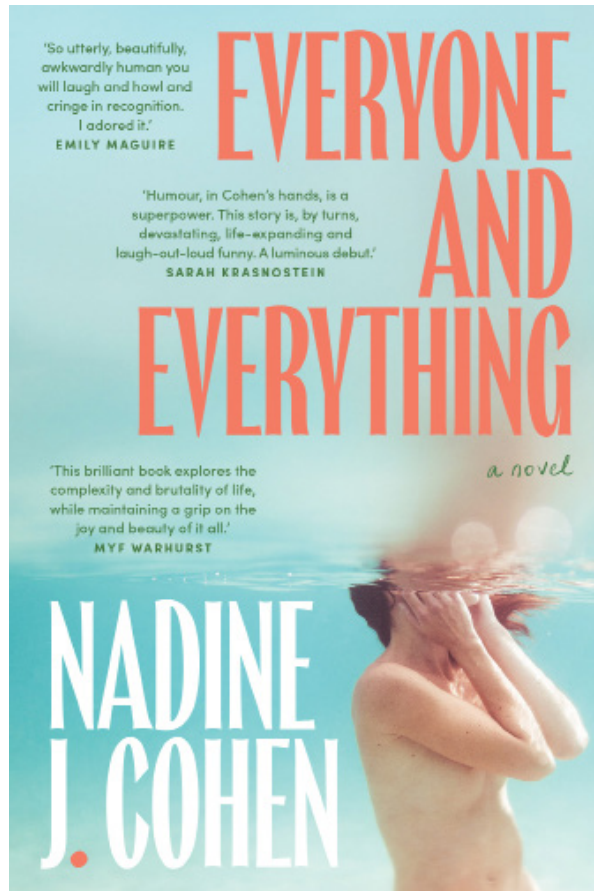
Will Jeremy get his happily ever after, in spite of everything?

About the Author



Patrick Lenton is a journalist and writer living in Melbourne. He is the author of three books, including the recent *Sexy Tales of Paleontology*. He is a regular arts and culture commentator in the media, having appeared on *The Project*, ABC's *The Mix*, ABC Breakfast and more. He is an anchor guest on ABC Sydney's *Culture Chatter*, ABC Melbourne, as well as regular slots on ABC RN, Statewide Drive, ABC Tropical North and more. His independent publication, *Nonsense*, covers comedy, queer news and culture.

Recent Adult Fiction



Pub Date: September 2023
ISBN: 9780645240092
Category: Literary Fiction
Format: Paperback C 234mm x 153mm
Extent: 320pp
Rights Held: World
Rights Sold: Audio - ANZ (Bolinda); German (Luebbe)

A dazzling literary debut, *Everyone and Everything* will make you laugh, cry and call your sister.

When Yael Silver's world comes crashing down, she looks to the past for answers and finds solace in surprising places. An unconventional new friendship, a seaside safe space and an unsettling amount of dairy help her to heal, as she wrestles with her demons – and some truly terrible erotic literature.

Funny and tender, *Everyone and Everything* is about friendship, grief and the deep, frustrating bond between sisters. It asks what makes us who we are and what leads us onto ledges. Perfect for fans of Meg Mason, Nora Ephron and Victoria Hannan, this is an intimate, wry and wise exploration of one woman's journey to the brink and back.

'Everyone and Everything hits the right balance of absurdity and dark humour, essential for a book in which the central theme is death. Cohen weaves Yael's Jewish identity into the narrative with hypnotic ease, and treats [Sydney's] iconic locations the way Nora Ephron treats Manhattan in her writing. Place is an identity-setter and for Yael, it doesn't take her long to realise that [the city] is brimming with sanctuaries that promise hope, love, safety and futurity.'

Sydney Morning Herald/The Age

"A dazzling literary debut ... It's the novel I never knew I needed but now know I'll never forget."

Better Reading

About the Author



Nadine J. Cohen, also known as Nadine von Cohen, is a writer and refugee advocate from Sydney. Her musings can be found all over the internet, with bylines in *The Guardian*, *The Saturday Paper*, *SMH*, *ABC*, *SBS*, *Frankie*, *Harper's Bazaar* and more. She is a co-founder and director at Hope for Nauru, a volunteer-run not-for-profit serving refugees and asylum seekers affected by offshore detention. *Everyone and Everything* is her debut novel.

BOOKTOPIA DEBUT BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR 2023
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD/THE AGE -
BEST BOOKS OF 2023

'Cohen writes exquisitely about sadness, especially about intergenerational trauma and the unimaginable grief of successive loss.'

The Big Issue

'Everyone and Everything is a sassy, soulful, current, conversational and truly delightful read. Written in the first person, the heart of the story is its compelling, adorable, flawed and deeply relatable protagonist. Yael Silver is a thirty-something Jewish hot mess of hope. She's an instant best friend to us as she travels through various life stages on a journey to healing, post a traumatic episode. Smart without being smug, insightful and hysterically funny, this novel is destined to be one of the most-loved releases of the year.'

Better Reading

INHERITANCE | Genevieve Gannon



Pub Date: September 2024

ISBN: 9780648618959

Category: Upmarket Women's Fiction

Format: Paperback C 234mm x 153mm

Extent: 294pp

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Audio (Bolinda)

From the author of *The Mothers* comes a near-future thriller that explores the possibilities and dangers of designing the perfect baby.

In 2027, Emily is deciding whether to take advantage of a new health service that promises a healthier, stronger baby through gene editing. There's plenty in her family tree that she would like to protect her unborn child against.

But not everybody loves the so-called designer baby technology.

Decades later, Adelaide is an ambitious political staffer trying to make a difference. Adelaide and her husband are working towards a goal they've called The Cyprus Project, but their plans risk being derailed when an unexpected threat looms.

Told across two generations, and two continents, *Inheritance* is about the legacies we leave our children, the bonds between mothers and daughters, and how it's never too late to fix our mistakes.

'Inheritance is a compelling, thought-provoking page-turner, set in a near future where the intersection between family, fertility and technology have grown ever-more complex. I read this book in a day and I'm still thinking about it weeks later. Perfect for fans of Jodi Picoult.'
Kelly Rimmer

About the Author



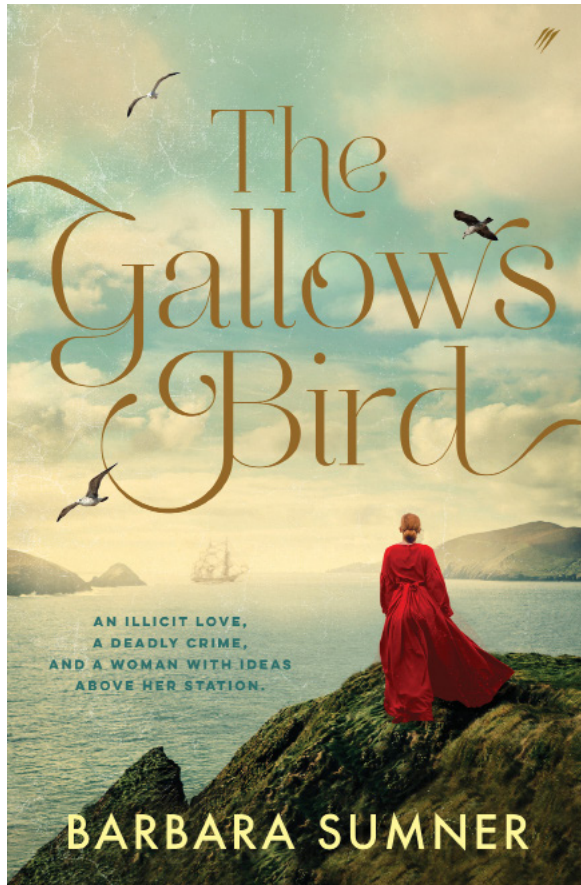
Genevieve Gannon is an award-winning journalist based in Sydney. Over her 15-year career she has worked as a front-line reporter in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney covering crime, health, social affairs and politics. She was the lead court reporter for Australian Associated Press and has been published in most major Australian newspapers. She is presently the senior journalist at *The Australian Women's Weekly* where she is known for in-depth articles on issues relating to the health, rights and safety of women. She is the author of *The Mothers* and *The Gifted Son*.

'Emotionally powerful, incredibly gripping and truly visionary.'
Tess Woods

'I absolutely loved this taut, emotional post-pandemic drama about mothers, daughters and advancing technology where the storyline is both speculative and entirely substantiated. Gripping, complex and disturbingly resonant, Inheritance will have you rapidly turning pages with your breath held as the characters make impossible choice after impossible choice. A brilliant, timely book.'
Anna Downes

Recent Historical Fiction

THE GALLOWS BIRD | Barbara Sumner



Pub Date: May 2024

ISBN: 9780645818055

Category: Historical Fiction

Format: Paperback C 234mm x 153mm

Extent: 416pp

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Audio World (Bolinda); Large Print (Ulverscroft)

A woman caught between two worlds, determined to own her freedom, no matter the cost.

Downton Abbey meets *Burial Rites* in this rich, embroiling tale based on true stories of the transportation of female convicts.

London 1838: Hannah 'Birdie' Bird is an underlaundry maid, servant in a manor house. Born the illegitimate child of an aristocratic mother, Birdie is caught between worlds, with ideas above her station and a suspicion that the wealthy family she serves is hers. She will risk anything to change her life. A secret synesthete, to Birdie the colours of fabric are imbued with flavour and smell, and she's particularly captivated by the beauty of silk. Falling into love and crime, she commits the largest silk heist of her time.

Betrayed and jailed, she finds herself transported to the ends of the earth, the Antipodes. After an arduous journey, Birdie and the women she befriends at sea arrive in Sydney Cove, and are sent to Parramatta's Female Factory, a workhouse prison for unmarried women that hosts the infamous 'mermaid's dance' to find them prospective partners. Will she finally find her longed for freedom in this far off land? *The Gallows Bird* gives voice to the women who refuse to let history leave them behind.

About the Author



Barbara Sumner is an author and filmmaker. Her back catalogue of achievements includes producing three highly acclaimed feature documentaries, a career in journalism, event production, television, bringing up four daughters and being accepted into a Masters program at the tender age of 60.

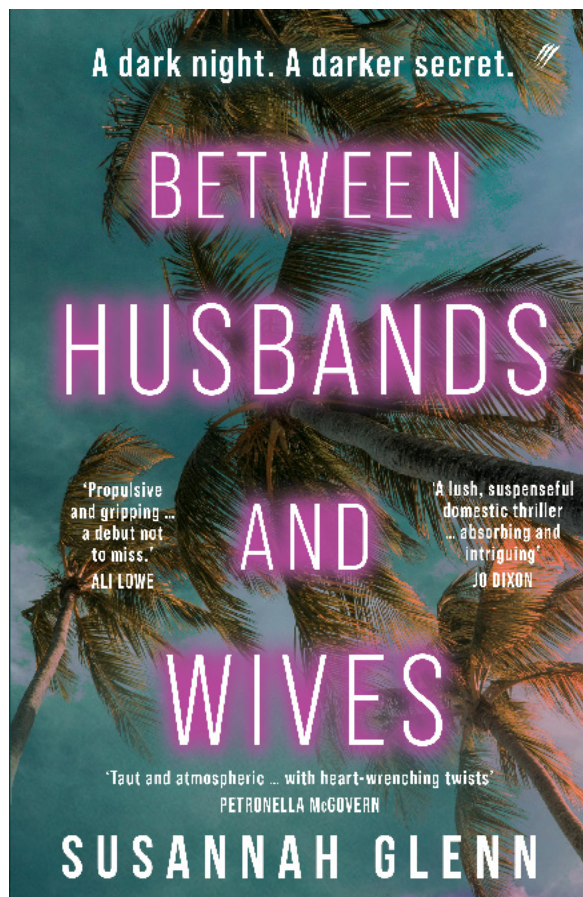
Barbara lives with her husband Thomas Burstyn in Hawke's Bay with a curmudgeonly ginger cat. She spends her time reading, writing, walking, and corrupting her grandchildren with wild ideas about life, love, and imagination.

Barbara is passionate about telling the untold stories of women in history - which is so often the stories of working class women.

The story is based on her own family history as well as wider research of convict transportation and treatment.

'A rich historical adventure that says as much about the women of the nineteenth century as it does about women today.'

Gigi Fenster



Pub Date: August 2024

ISBN: 9780645869071

Category: Domestic Thriller

Format: Paperback C 234mm x 153mm

Extent: 294pp

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Audio (Audible)

On a cold, dark night, two cars collide ...

Inside the vehicle at fault, Jennifer Ashby survives with barely a scratch. In the wreckage of the second, the occupants are not so lucky. Jennifer's good character helps her escape jail, but she is traumatised by the event. Desperate for a fresh start, and with her marriage buckling under the stress, she convinces her husband, Jon, to make a sea-change and move with their young son to Far North Queensland.

As Jon spends long hours at his new job and Jennifer makes secret plans to absolve her lingering guilt, cracks begin to form in their idyllic new life. Will their dark secret be exposed? And what really happened on the night of the accident?

A page-turning domestic thriller for fans of Sally Hepworth and Liane Moriarty.

'Susannah Glenn drew me right in to Jen's troubled world as she attempts to escape dark secrets and right past wrongs in this thoroughly absorbing, frighteningly real and sharply plotted debut, which firmly positions Glenn as a formidable new talent in the twisty domestic thriller genre.'

Nicola Moriarty

'This taut and atmospheric debut takes us inside a marriage with its underlying foundations of love, loyalty and secrets ... with some heart-wrenching twists'

Petronella McGovern, author of The Liars and The Good Teacher

About the Author



Susannah Glenn has worked as a print journalist, editor, magazine publisher and managing editor for News Limited, Western Newspapers, Macquarie Publications, APN Educational Media and the London Times Higher Education Supplement. She has also worked in corporate communications, public relations, marketing, publications, media and event management. Three years ago, she quit her day job to pursue her long-held ambition of becoming a full-time writer and published author. Susannah divides her time between her farm on the Mid North Coast of NSW and Adelaide.

'A lush, suspenseful story where nothing is as it seems. *Between Husbands and Wives* immerses the reader in the verdant tropics of North Queensland, delivering an ever-increasing sense of dread as a marriage falters, and the details surrounding a fatal accident begin to appear. This book is both absorbing and intriguing, and the need to discover what really happened kept me turning the pages late into the night.'

Jo Dixon, author of The House of Now and Then

'A propulsive and gripping thriller with twists that don't let up. You will not see the end coming. This is a debut not to miss.'

Ali Lowe



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