



BOOK DETAILS

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AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Fiona McGregor is the author of four works of fiction: *Au Pair*, shortlisted for The Australian/Vogel Award; *Suck My Toes*, winner of the Steele Rudd Award; *chemical palace*, shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Award for fiction; and, most recently, *Indelible Ink*. Fiona has also written a travel memoir, *Strange Museums*. She was voted one of the inaugural Best Young Novelists by the Sydney Morning Herald in 1997. Fiona is also known as a performance artist. She has performed live across Australia and Europe, and her video works have been seen internationally.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How does Marie's desire to be tattooed compare with her addiction to alcohol?
2. Do you agree with Rhys that all parents have a favourite child? How does Marie's favouritism affect her relationship with each of her three children?
3. Describe the dynamic between Marie and Susan, and how it changes over the book. Can we still be friends with those we grow apart from?
4. Marie's garden plays an important part in this novel. What is its function in her life and in the book?
5. Does Marie have many regrets about her life? Does she resent her children's choices and freedom?
6. Is Marie having a midlife crisis — or is she actually living life to the full for the first time?
7. How do you think the events of the book affect the way Marie approaches her cancer prognosis?
8. In what ways does Blanche's life differ from Marie's? Does Marie resent Blanche for this or vice versa?

REVIEWS

‘McGregor’s writing is subtle and beautiful, alive with imagery but never self-conscious or heavy-handed. Meaning grows on the reader almost imperceptibly, the quiet beauty of the prose as soft and gentle as a rose petal. But there are spikes too, made all the more sharper by contrast: moments of lust, fear, fury that catch the reader by surprise, their impact deep and long-lasting. In the end, [*Indelible Ink*’s heroine] Marie King achieves her desire: she will stay etched in my mind for a long time.’

— SARAH VINE, *The Times*

‘Fiona McGregor presents a refreshing view of life in Australia — specifically Sydney — that celebrates the doubts, challenges and ordinary activities and emotions of everyday life.’

— CARLY BEEN, *Bookseller & Publisher*

‘The most talked-about new Australian novel is Fiona McGregor’s *Indelible Ink*, a suburban family drama set in Howard-era Sydney that looks set to become the biggest thing since *The Slap* ... McGregor deftly handles the subject of the modern appetite for excess and how it’s affecting the world without sacrificing her characters or story in the process. Ian McEwan: watch out.’

— JO CASE, *The Big Issue*



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