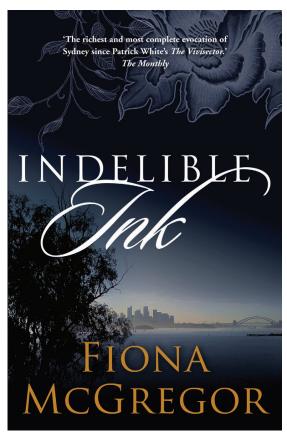
BOOK CLUB NOTES

Indelible Ink

FIONA MCGREGOR



BOOK DETAILS

Format: Paperback ISBN: 9781921844201

RRP: \$24.95



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

- I. 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?

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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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