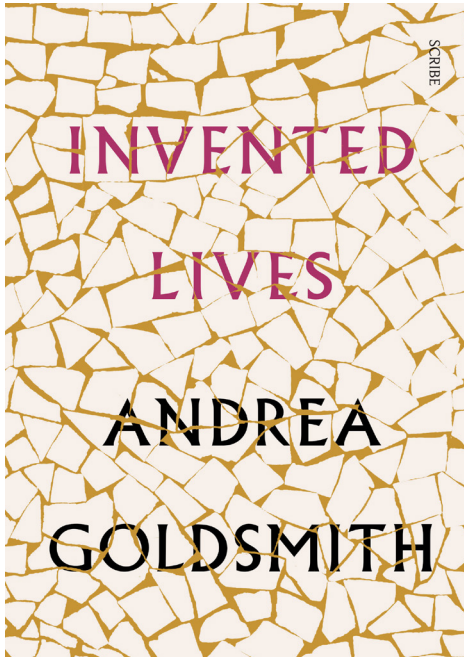


Invented Lives

ANDREA GOLDSMITH

**BOOK DETAILS**

Format: Paperback

ISBN: 9781925713589

RRP: \$32.99



Andrea Goldsmith originally trained as a speech pathologist and was a pioneer in the development of communication aids for people unable to speak. Her first novel, *Gracious Living*, was published in 1989. This was followed by *Modern Interiors*, *Facing the Music*, *Under the Knife*, and *The Prosperous Thief*, which was short-listed for the 2003 Miles Franklin Literary Award. *Reunion* was published in 2009, and *The Memory Trap* was awarded the 2015 Melbourne Prize. Her literary essays have appeared in *Meanjin*, *Australian Book Review*, *Best Australian Essays*, and numerous anthologies. Andrea Goldsmith lives in Melbourne.

Knowing what you want is hard. Accepting what is possible is harder still.

It is the mid-1980s. In Australia, stay-at-home wives jostle with want-it-all feminists, while AIDS threatens the sexual freedom of everyone. On the other side of the world, the Soviet bloc is in turmoil.

Mikhail Gorbachev has been in power for a year when twenty-four-year-old book illustrator Galina Kogan leaves Leningrad — forbidden ever to return. As a Jew, she's inherited several generations worth of Russia's chronic anti-Semitism. As a Soviet citizen, she is unprepared for Australia and its easygoing ways.

Once settled in Melbourne, Galina is befriended by Sylvie and Leonard Morrow, and their adult son, Andrew. The Morrow marriage of thirty years balances on secrets. Leonard is a man with conflicted desires and passions, while Sylvie chafes against the confines of domestic life. Their son, Andrew, a successful mosaicist, is a deeply shy man. He is content with his life and work — until he finds himself increasingly drawn to Galina.

While Galina grapples with the tumultuous demands that come with being an immigrant in Australia, her presence disrupts the lives of each of the Morrows. No one is left unchanged.

Invented Lives tells a story of exile: exile from country, exile at home, and exile from one's true self.

It is also a story about love.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Was Galina justified in her decision to leave the Soviet Union?
2. What are the main conflicts and challenges Galina experiences in her attempt to find home in Australia?
3. What does Galina's experience as a Soviet émigré to Australia reveal about the nature of home?

REVIEWS

'It is a fabulous book ... It lives on ... What I really loved was the changing seasons of all the characters, their inner beings, their outer beings, their strengths.'

DRUSILLA MODJESKA

'One of the best books I've read in ages. A dizzy pleasure to read a book with such a compelling story ... Exquisitely told.'

MEM FOX

'This is a compassionate and thoughtful depiction of one aspect of multicultural Australia ... *Invented Lives* will appeal to fans to Australian literary fiction for its depiction of rich inner lives, and the conflict between desire and reality.'

— **LOUISE OMER,**

BOOKS+PUBLISHING

4. All the characters in *Invented Lives* experience a sense of exile. Galina knows what it is to be exiled from country. What of Andrew, Sylvie, and Leonard? What is their experience of exile?
5. Fear and desire. How do these emotions drive the actions of the characters? And how do they affect their decisions?
6. What purpose do letters serve in Sylvie's life?
7. Letters are a rarity in our contemporary digital age. What, if anything, has been lost? What might be the contemporary version of Sylvie's final letter to Mark?
8. Both Sylvie and Leonard are unfaithful. How do their situations compare? They've been married for 30 years; do they have another 30 years?
9. When Mikhail turns up, Galina, usually so strong and resilient, is suddenly stripped of determination and reason. How do you explain this reaction?
10. Do Andrew and Galina have a future together?
11. The events of the novel occur during the mid-to-late 1980s. How relevant are the themes today?



Scribe Publications
 18–20 Edward Street
 Brunswick Vic 3056
 T: (03) 9388 8780
 E: info@scribepub.com.au

Seriously good books.

scribepublications.com.au

AUSTRALIAN SMALL PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR 2011, 2010, 2008, 2006