



MEDIA RELEASE



BECOMING KIRRALI LEWIS

By Jane Harrison

Published by Magabala Books | June 2015 |

RRP \$19.95| 130pp

From one of Australia's leading Indigenous playwrights comes a stunning debut novel about belonging, race and identity – *Becoming Kirrali Lewis* by Jane Harrison.

Becoming Kirrali Lewis is a powerful coming-of-age novel of a young woman's passage to adulthood and the search for a place to call home. Akin to 'Looking for Alibrandi', *Becoming Kirrali Lewis* has the potential to be a young adult best-seller and breaks new ground - offering a fresh and unique take on the national narrative.

Kirrali grew up in a white family in a country town and always knew she was adopted, but she never felt her skin colour stopped her from doing anything. Fiercely independent, smart and savvy, Kirrali embarks on a law degree at university in the city and feels like anything could be possible. But after a series of confronting events, Kirrali's world is rocked to its foundations and she feels compelled to look for her Aboriginal biological family and find out who she really is. But what she finds is nothing like she expected. If only she could let go.

Set against the explosive cultural shifts of the 60s and 80s, the characters of *Becoming Kirrali Lewis* draw on a past marked by forced adoption practices, the black/white divide and the political machinations of the 1967 referendum and the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. A perfect choice for bookclubs, *Becoming Kirrali Lewis* will strike a chord with people who lived through the 60s and recall the momentous social pressures and events of the time.

Poignant, taut and revealing, *Becoming Kirrali Lewis* was the joint winner of the 2014 black&write kuril dhagun Indigenous Writing Fellowship and demonstrates Jane Harrison as a new voice to be reckoned with. Above all it is an Australian novel with heart – a moving, compelling and expertly crafted story of a young woman's search for self in a complex world. Don't miss it.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jane Harrison is a descendant of the Muruwari people of NSW. She is an award-winning playwright and has an MA in Playwriting from the Queensland University of Technology. In 2002, her first play *Stolen* was the co-winner of the Kate Challis RAKA Award. It has since been performed throughout Australia as well as the UK, Hong Kong and Japan and is on the VCE English and NSW HSC syllabi. Her most recent play *The Visitors* formed part of the Melbourne Theatre Company 2014 *Cybec Electric* Series. Jane has been the recipient of several playwriting awards and her essays have been published in various journals. Jane lives in Melbourne and has two daughters

PRAISE FOR JANE HARRISON'S PLAYS

Simple, devastating emotional, political and theatrical moment -The Australian

A powerful narrative...poignant...chilling - The Age

True and harrowing stories...simple, direct and fierce - The Guardian

Jane Harrison is available for interview.

All Media Enquiries to Publicist Bettina Richter mob: 0414 441 860/

email: bettina@missbettinamedia.com.au