

# GRACE BESIDE ME

Winner of the inaugural black&write! kuril dhagan Indigenous Writing Fellowship

Written by Sue McPherson

Written from teenager girl Fuzzy Mac's perspective, *Grace Beside Me* is a quirky, warmly rendered story of home and family life in a small town. The black&write! (press release attached) judges remarked on the authentic feel of the Indigenous home life of Fuzzy Mac and her grandparents — her guardians since the death of her mother.

Awkward episodes of teen rivalry and romance sit happily alongside the mystery of Gran's visions and an encounter with a ghost. The story sits against a backdrop of amazing characters including the holocaust survivor who went to school with Einstein; the sleazy, once-good-looking Mayor; the little priest always rushing off to bury someone before the heat gets to them; the wife basher up the road; Lola's Forest, dedicated to Lola, a traditional Aboriginal woman who met Ned Kelly — and Nan and Pop.

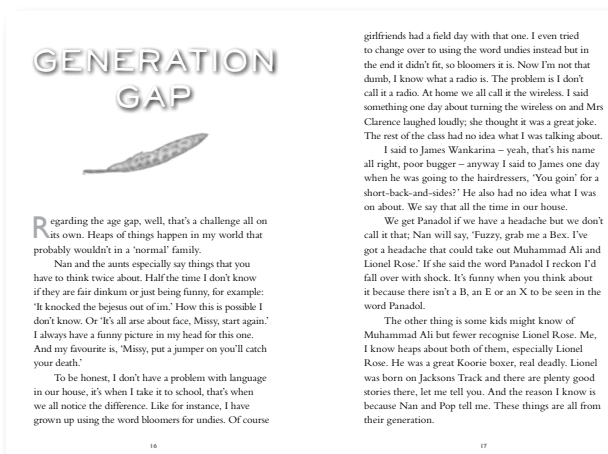
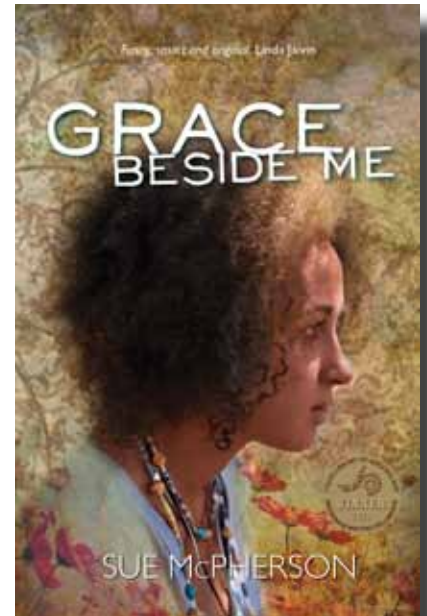
*Grace Beside Me* interweaves the mundane with the profound and the spiritual — it is full of wisdom and good advice (Fuzzy call's Nan 'the queen of all knowing') on everything from how to 'sit a while' in the bush and connect with country to how to properly hang out the washing.

Sue McPherson is a visual artist living in Eumundi, Queensland. She was born in Sydney to an Aboriginal mother, from Wiradjuri country. Sue was adopted into the McPherson family, landowners from the Batlow area in News South Wales, when she was very young.

Sue was inspired to write by her two teenage sons. She took a writing workshop in Coolum and, three months later, started writing *Grace Beside Me*.

*Grace Beside Me* will be available from March 2012 in bookshops and online from Magabala Books ([www.magabala.com](http://www.magabala.com)) for \$19.95.

Launched in 1987, Magabala Books is a not-for-profit Indigenous publishing house based in Broome, that aims to promote, preserve and publish Indigenous Australian culture.



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