

SONGS THAT SOUND LIKE BLOOD

From acclaimed author and playwright Jared Thomas comes a life-affirming YA novel about music, identity and standing up for what you believe

'Everything a good song has – guts, pride and soul.' – Ellen van Neerven

Roxy May Redding is a small town girl. All she has ever known is her close-knit family and the small country town where she grew up. But after visiting the city and checking out the university music course, Roxy's world gets a whole lot bigger. Will she be brave enough, or even good enough at music, to leave the comfort of home and survive in the city?

When Roxy moves to Adelaide, she encounters a whole new landscape of choice, opportunity, and challenges. Whilst she loves the exciting music scene she's stepped into, she also has to deal with no money, living in a shared house, racism, standing up for what she believes in, and following her heart. Roxy soon discovers that in coming out, she could lose everything. Family and friends watch closely as Roxy takes a confronting journey to find out who she is.

A fresh Young Adult novel that deals with LGBTQIA themes, *Songs that sound like blood* interweaves issues around stigma, coming out, pride and belonging in a gentle and seamless way. Jared Thomas has deftly fashioned an absorbing and moving tale peppered with humour, drama, and edgy characters.

With music references to Missy Higgins, PJ Harvey, Tame Impala, Frank Yamma and Paul Kelly, *Songs That Sound Like Blood* is a compelling soundtrack for modern times and a vital coming-of-age novel for teenagers and parents alike about diversity and finding your true self.

About the author



Dr Jared Thomas is a Nukunu person of the Southern Flinders Ranges who grew up on country. His first play *Flash Red Ford* toured Uganda and Kenya in 1999. *Love, Land and Money* featured at the 2002 Adelaide Fringe Festival; his YA novel *Sweet Guy* was shortlisted for the 2009 SA People's Choice Awards for Literature; and his children's book, *Dallas Davis, the Scientist and the City Kids* was published by the OUP Yarning Strong series. Jared was the recipient of the kuril dhagun Indigenous Writing Fellowship in 2012 for his YA novel *Calypso Summer* (Magabala Books 2013). In 2015, *Calypso Summer* was one of eight Australian titles selected by the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany for inclusion in their annual White Ravens Catalogue, which is introduced each year at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Italy.

Jared's writing explores the power of belonging and culture. He lives in Adelaide with his partner and two daughters and is available for interview.

***Songs that sound like blood* will be launched at the 2016 Melbourne Writers Festival on Saturday August 27.**

Available August 2016 in all good bookshops and online from Magabala Books RRP \$14.99.

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

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