

CLOUDLESS

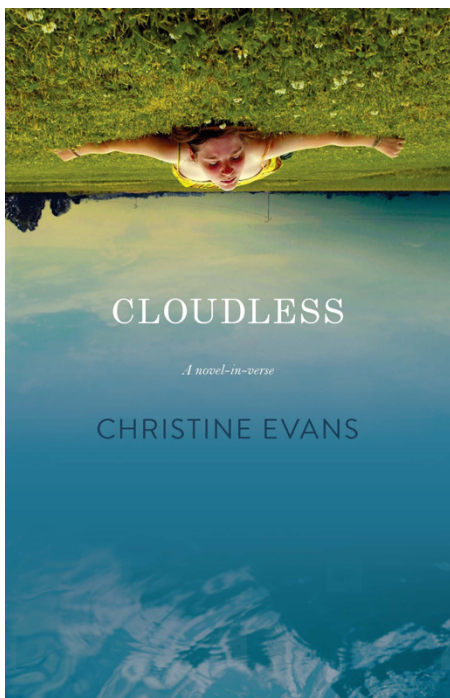
A novel in verse

by **Christine Evans**

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It's a still, hot summer in Perth, heat shimmering off the city's glass buildings. Not much to do but surrender to the cool of Beatty Park's swimming pool. The locals are out in force: teenagers flirting, parents with toddlers, even the rag-tag kids from the refuge. But amid the seeming chaos of the pool and under the stillness of the sky, something connects them. We follow Auntie, in town with Jerome to find the kid's runaway mum; bus driver Kevin, dealing with raucous kids and a city that seems to be growing hostile; Karri and his other-worldly sister Bat Girl; and pesky young Jackie, stealing her sisters' smokes by the pool.

In this dazzling, lyrical verse novel by acclaimed playwright Christine Evans, we see and feel the strange and invisible ways in which people are drawn together or pulled apart - and we witness the catastrophic release that might finally bring them back home.

"The pool's electric shiver-blue returns.

Bat Girl starts to work again, rewiring, building order
in a corner on a towel in Beatty Park
itself a concrete monster crouched inside
the roaring roads of Perth, a sanctuary from traffic
shielding patterns of its own
Arcs of diving kids in glitter shields of spray
black-snake lap lines guiding swimmers
diving towers where Jackie and her sisters bake
and bicker, in the chaos Karri left
a rudely switched-up pecking order.

Jackie's sisters' indignation raw and new
as if they'd never read a fairytale
or if they had, believed themselves immune".



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christine Evans was born in London, grew up in Perth and lives in Washington, D.C. Her award-winning plays are published by Samuel French and have been produced in Australia, England, the U.S., Canada and Wales. She is a faculty member of Georgetown University, and *Cloudless* is her first novel. www.christine-evans-playwright.com

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