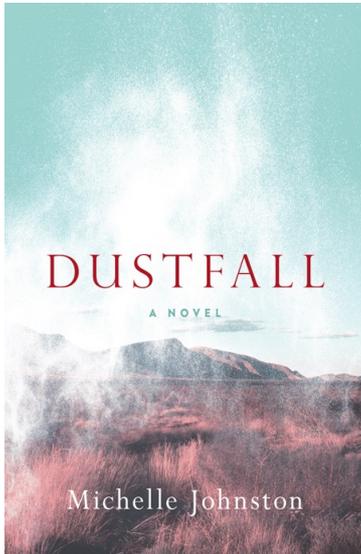


DUSTFALL

Michelle Johnston

RRP \$26.99



Haunting and lyrical, humming with compassion and insight, Dustfall heralds the arrival of a brilliant new literary voice. Michelle Johnston is a rare talent, and this is a rare jewel of a novel. - Kathryn Heyman

The vulnerability of doctors, the crashing consequences of medical error, and the toxic legacy of asbestos mining underpin a gripping first novel by Emergency Physician Michelle Johnston.

In *Dustfall*, Doctor Raymond Filigree is running away from a disastrous medical career. Mistaking an unknown name on a map as a place of refuge, he travels to the desolate town of Wittenoom to take charge of its small hospital, where no previous doctor has managed to stay longer than an eye-blink. There he is confronted with an asbestos mining corporation with no regard for the safety of its workers and no care for the truth.

Thirty years later, Dr Lou Fitzgerald stumbles across the abandoned Wittenoom Hospital. She is also a fugitive from a career toppled by one terrible mistake. As Lou unearths old letters and barely used medical equipment, and, fed by one of the few remaining residents, the ghostly history of the hospital makes itself known.

Dustfall is a tale of the reverberating pain of medical error, and of a dark chapter in Western Australia's recent history during the asbestos mining era.



Dustfall was inspired in part by an experience early in Michelle Johnston's medical career, when an error she made as a junior doctor changed the course of her professional life.

Michelle Johnston is a consultant Emergency Physician at a Perth hospital. She studied medicine at UWA, and gained her Fellowship with the Australian College for Emergency Medicine in 1998. She believes there is a beating heart of humanity, art, and beauty within the brutal reality of the Emergency Department.

*** Michelle Johnston is available for interview ***



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