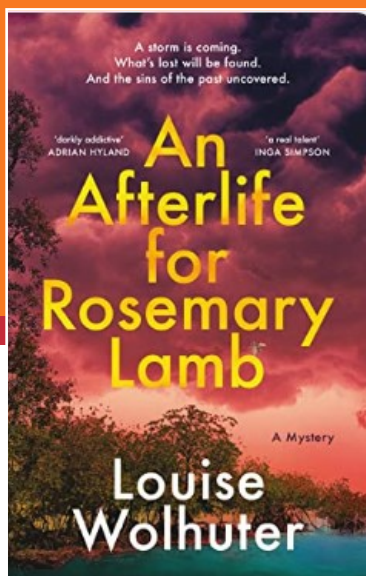


# *An afterlife for Rosemary Lamb* By Louise, Wolhuter.

*First published in 2022*



## **Genre and Subject**

*Domestic fiction      Australian fiction*  
*Missing persons -- Investigation -- Fiction*  
*Australian fiction*

## **Synopsis**

Jessie Else disappeared the summer the Lambs came to Magpie Beach. Not that the two events were connected at all, in reality; only in my own head, in my own world. They marked for me the end of a certain quiet time and the start of a more complicated living. Winifred is a small town full of prejudices and assumptions. Meg and Lily are outsiders who live on its margins at Magpie Beach, where they've managed to keep out of each other's - and everyone else's - way for years. That is, until Rosemary comes along and draws them into an unlikely friendship. When nine-year-old Jessie Else goes missing, the residents of Winifred begin locking their doors, and fingers soon start pointing towards Magpie Beach. Questions threaten to undo Meg, Rosemary and Lily's quiet existence, and the women band together to protect themselves, and to protect each other, but all three are holding secrets that are too big for them to keep on their own. It's only a matter of time before they start to unravel-and nothing will ever be the same again.

## **Author Biography**

Louise Wolhuter grew up in northern England, moved to Queensland, before settling in Perth to raise a family. She currently works an Education Assistant in a pre-primary classroom, which leaves her early mornings, weekends and school holidays to write.

Louise's debut novel, *An Afterlife for Rosemary Lamb*, was published by Ultimo Press in December 2022. Her next book, *Shadows of Winter Robins*, will be published in 2024.

## Discussion Starters

1. Meg, Lily and Rosemary are an unlikely trio who become friends. What do you think the author was trying to say about friendship by bringing three seemingly disparate characters together?
2. Magpie Beach is described as a small community that feels quite claustrophobic, what is the appeal of small towns when creating a story, and what do you think is the message about small towns, good and bad?
3. Much of the story revolves around a tight knit community and those who might go unnoticed. What do you think the motive was in focussing on the forgotten members of society?
4. As each of our three characters is a different age and from a different background, what do you think the beauty and benefits are to friendships that bridge generations and class?
5. Returning to the idea of characters who might go unnoticed in society, what is the message the author is trying to convey about the first impressions we might have of those we meet? How does it make you reflect on your own response to first impressions?
6. Each of our characters finds themselves at a point in their life when they are responding to a stage of grief or existential conflict. Do you think the characters responded to their own concerns in a believable fashion? If so/if not, why?
7. As our society continues to focus on what is seen to be 'different to normal' – do you think the novel effectively portrays how people can be sidelined for not conforming?

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