



# [The Bellbird River Country Choir] By Sophie Green

First published in 2022

## Genre and Subject

*Domestic fiction      Australian fiction*  
*Country life -- New South Wales -- fiction*  
*Life change events -- fiction*

## Synopsis

Bellbird River, 1998: Teacher and single mum Alex is newly arrived in the small NSW country town of Bellbird River after escaping the city in search of a change of pace and the chance to reconnect with her young daughter. Across town, well-known matriarch Victoria and her globe-trotting, opera-singing cousin Gabrielle find themselves at a crossroads in their personal and professional lives, while local baker Janine and newcomer to the district Debbie are each secretly dealing with the consequences of painful pasts. With its dusty streets, lone pub and iron-lace verandahs, Bellbird River could just be a pit stop on the road to somewhere else. But their town holds some secrets and surprises - and it has a heart: the Bellbird River choir. Amid the melodies and camaraderie of the choir, each of the women will find the courage to leave the past behind. And together, they'll discover that friends are much closer to home than they'd ever realised.

## Author Biography

Sophie Green is an author and publisher who lives in Sydney. She has written several fiction and non-fiction books, some under other names. In her spare time she writes about country music on her website, Sunburnt Country Music.

She has been practising yoga since 1993 and teaching since 2002. Sophie's debut novel, THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE FAIRVALE LADIES BOOK CLUB, was a Top Ten bestseller and was shortlisted for the Australian Book Industry Awards for General Fiction Book of the Year 2018, and longlisted for both the Matt Richell Award for New Writer of the Year 2018 and the Indie Book Award for Debut Fiction 2018. Sophie Green is internationally published and THE SHELLY BAY LADIES SWIMMING CIRCLE, THURSDAYS AT ORANGE BLOSSOM HOUSE and THE BELLBIRD RIVER COUNTRY CHOIR were also Top Ten bestsellers.

## Discussion Starters

- What was your initial reaction to the book? Did it hook you immediately or take some time to get in to?
- What did you like best about this work?
- What did you like least about this work?
- Do you think the story was plot based or character driven?
- What was unique about the setting of the book and how did it enhance or take away from the story?
- If the book is from the historical fiction genre, what would be the advantages or disadvantages of living during this time period? Would you like living in this time period? Why or why not?
- What specific themes did the author emphasize throughout the novel? What do you think he or she is trying to get across to the reader?
- How do the characters change through the book? How does your opinion of them change?
- If you could hear this same story from another person's point of view, who would you choose?
- In what ways do the events in the books reveal evidence of the author's world view?
- Did certain parts of the book make you uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way? Did this lead to a new understanding or awareness of some aspect of your life you might not have thought about before?
- How would you react if you were in the same situation?
- Have any of the events in this book ever happened to you? How did you resolve the situations?
- What feelings/emotions did this book evoke for you?
- Did the storyline change your opinion of an event, place or time period? How?
- Has this novel changed you—broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world?
- If the author were to write a sequel to this book, what do you think would happen to the characters?

## If you liked this book, you may also like...

- Lola in the mirror by Dalton, Trent
- Black sheep by Nunn, Judy

*Author biography from Hachett Australia - <https://www.hachette.com.au/sophie-green/>*