



[Canticle Creek]

By Adrian Hyland

First published in 2021

Genre and Subject

Murder -- Investigation -- Australia -- Fiction

Country life -- Australia -- Fiction

Policewomen -- Australia -- Fiction

Australian fiction

Detective and mystery fiction

Synopsis

Two bodies. One long hot summer. A town that will never be the same.

When Adam Lawson's wrecked car is found a kilometre from Daisy Baker's body, the whole town assumes it's an open and shut case. But Jesse Redpath isn't from Canticle Creek. Where she comes from, the truth often hides in plain sight, but only if you know where to look.

When Jesse starts to ask awkward questions, she uncovers a town full of contradictions and a cast of characters with dark pasts, secrets to hide and even more to lose.

As the temperature soars, and the ground bakes, the wilderness surrounding Canticle Creek becomes a powder keg waiting to explode.

All it needs is one spark.

Author Biography

Adrian Hyland spent many years in the Northern Territory, living and working among indigenous people. He now teaches at LaTrobe University and lives in the north-east of Melbourne. His first novel, *Diamond Dove* won the 2007 Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction.

Discussion Starters

1. What was your favourite part of the book?
2. What was your least favourite?
3. Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?
4. What did you think of the writing? What passages strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialog that's funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there's a particular comment that states the book's thematic concerns?
5. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to "get into it"? How did you feel reading it—amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored...?
6. Describe the main characters—personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities.
 - Why do characters do what they do?
 - Are their actions justified?
 - Describe the dynamics between characters (in a marriage, family, or friendship).
 - How has the past shaped their lives?
 - Do you admire or disapprove of them?
 - Do they remind you of people you know?
7. Are the main characters dynamic—changing or maturing by the end of the book? Do they learn about themselves, how the world works and their role in it?
8. What surprised you most about the book?
9. How did your opinion of the book change as you read it?
10. 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? Do you think you'll remember it in a few months or years?
11. Is this book overrated or underrated?
12. Did this book remind you of any other books?
13. Would you ever consider re-reading it? Why or why not?
14. Are there lingering questions from the book you're still thinking about?
15. Did the book strike you as original?
16. Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?

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

- *The Torrent* by Dinuka Mckenzie
- *When we fall* by Aoife Clifford