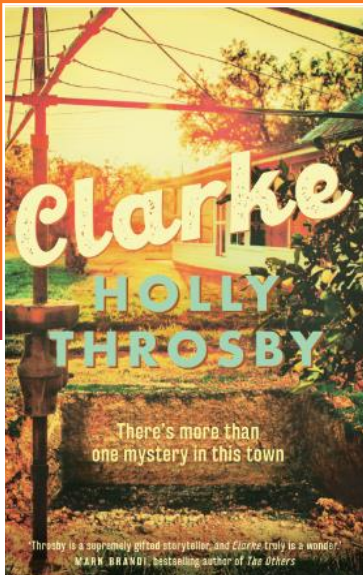


# Clarke

By Holly Thorsby

First published in 2022



## Genre and Subject

*Australian fiction*      *Missing persons -- fiction*

*Interpersonal relations -- fiction*

*Family secrets -- fiction*

## Synopsis

On a hot morning in 1991 in the regional town of Clarke, Barney Clarke (no relation) is woken by the unexpected arrival of many policemen: they are going to search his backyard for the body of a missing woman.

Next door, Leonie Wallace and little Joe watch the police cars through their kitchen window. Leonie has been waiting for this day for six years. She is certain that her friend - Ginny Lawson - is buried in that backyard under a slab of suspicious concrete.

But the fate of Ginny Lawson is not the only mystery in Clarke. Barney lives alone in a rented house with a ring on his finger, but where is Barney's wife? Leonie lives with four-year-old Joe, but where is Joe's mother? Clarke is a story of family and violence, of identity and longing, of unlikely connections and the comedy of everyday life. At its centre stands Leonie Wallace, a travel agent who has never travelled, a warm woman full of love and hope and grief, who must steer Joe safely through a very strange time indeed.

## Author Biography

Holly Thorsby is a musician and novelist. She has released five solo albums, a collection of original children's songs, two albums as part of the band Seeker Lover Keeper, and has been nominated for five ARIAs.

Holly's novels, Goodwood (2016) and Cedar Valley (2018), were both critically acclaimed bestsellers. For her fiction, Holly has been shortlisted for the Barbara Jefferis Award, an Indie Book Award, two Australian Book Industry Awards, two Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards, and a Ned Kelly Award.

Clarke is her third novel.

## Discussion Starters

1. Which characters did you like best? Which did you like least?
2. Which character did you relate to, or empathize with, the most?
3. If you had to trade places with one character, who would it be?
4. Guess the characters' zodiac signs.
5. What do you think happens to the characters after the book's official ending?
6. What are your thoughts on the book's structure? Did it serve the story well?
7. How did the setting impact the story? Would you want to read more books set in that world?
8. Did the book feel real to you?
9. Did the plot proceed in a way that felt natural? Or did you feel manipulated by the storyline?
10. Are there any characters you'd like to deliver a lecture to? If so, who? What would you say?

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

- *Broken Bay* by Margaret, Hickey.
- *Tipping Point* by Dinuka, McKenzie.

Author biography from <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/book/Holly-Throsby-Clarke-9781760878740/>