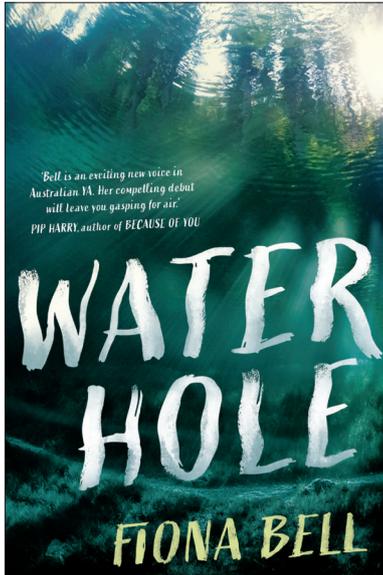


# WATERHOLE

Young Adult

by Fiona Bell

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*There are a lot of firsts to deal with when someone dies on you. There's the first meal, the first time you watch a TV show you both liked, the first time you laugh, the first day of the Christmas holidays.*

*Without them.*

**Waterhole is a haunting and engaging debut from a talented #LoveOzYA author.**

Ever since sixteen-year-old Sunny Maguire's mother died in a car accident, Sunny has been feeling lost and alone. She dreads the idea of spending the long summer with her distant stepfather, the person she blames for her mother's death. But Kevin is the only family she has left and Sunny's got nowhere else to go.

When Sunny learns that a local teenage boy has disappeared, she joins in the search along the gorge and at the waterhole – a beautiful pool tainted by a mysterious number of tragic drownings. And when she sees her mother's ghost, she starts to lose faith in the only person she can rely on.

Author Fiona Bell was born in Jamaica and grew up on a citrus farm near Cairns in Far North Queensland. This tropical setting provided much of the inspiration for *Waterhole*, particularly the vast dense rainforests with their abundance of clear mountain streams and deep waterholes.

'The mystery and timelessness of the ancient forests and waterways seemed a fitting backdrop for a story with themes of life, death and the great unknown,' Bell explains. 'Sunny's struggles are not uncommon to us all as we stumble along trying to navigate life and find our place in the world.'

Exploring teenage identity, trust, young love, and the fragility of human connections, *Waterhole* is a suspenseful mystery from a new talent in Australian Young Adult literature.

## PRAISE FOR WATERHOLE

'An intense, atmospheric and gripping mystery with tons of heart and a little bit of magic. Expect to lose sleep turning the pages of this compelling, ghostly debut. A chilling supernatural tale about loss, love and new beginnings. *Waterhole* will suck you in and leave you gasping for air. Bell is an exciting new voice in Australian YA.' **Pip Harry, author of *Because of You***

**FIONA BELL** lives in Cairns with her husband and four kids. When she's not writing short stories or young adult fiction she can be found with a whiteboard marker in one hand and a classic novel in the other, trying to inspire teenagers to love English as much as she does. Fiona is currently working on another YA novel set in the far north. *Waterhole* is her first book.

## FIONA BELL IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

To request a review copy or to arrange an interview, please contact Kylie Rathborne, Manager – Marketing, Sales and Publicity on [kylier@uqp.uq.edu.au](mailto:kylier@uqp.uq.edu.au) or 07 3346 7932

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