Miracle
by Jennifer Lane

Published by Cloud Ink Press, 15 September 2022. RRP $34.99

By a prize-winning author, this novel will appeal to young adults as well as to a general audience.

> *'Ingeniously plotted, with the best combination of grit and quirkiness, Miracle is sure to become a fast favourite with a wide range of readers.'*
> CATHERINE ROBERTSON

Jennifer Lane won the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best First Novel in 2018 with *All Our Secrets*.





Born in the middle of Australia's biggest-ever earthquake, Miracle is fourteen when her world crumbles. Thanks to her dad's new job at Compassionate Cremations – which falls under suspicion for Boorunga's spate of sudden deaths – the entire town turns against their family. Miracle is tormented by her classmates, even by Oli, the boy she can't get out of her head. She fears for her agoraphobic mother, and for her angelic, quake-damaged brother, Julian. When Oli plays a cruel trick on Miracle, a chain of devastating events is set off.

Then her dad is arrested for a brutal attack. Miracle takes the full weight on her shoulders. How can she convince the town of her dad's innocence?

Heartbreaking, delightful and quirky, Jennifer Lane pulls off another family story that packs a punch.

Notes

- Jennifer Lane is available for interview or for author talks – please contact Tina Shaw (021 08397700) or on email at info@cloudink.co.nz
- Review copies are available on request
- Miracle will be available to purchase from all good bookshops, from 15 September 2022. It will also be available online or to purchase direct from cloudink.co.nz/shop
- Media materials, including high-quality images of the books cover and author, will be available for download from www.cloudink.co.nz/media
- ISBN: 978-0-473-62935-9. Format: Paperback. 210mm x 135mm. 328 pages.

About the author

Jennifer Lane was a winner of NZ Book Month's *Six Pack 2* writing competition in 2007 and her short stories and articles have since appeared in publications here and in Australia. Wellington-based Lane burst onto the literary scene with *All Our Secrets* which won the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best First Novel in 2018. An advertising copywriter, Lane is also an editor and advisor in a government agency.

Lane's second favourite activity (after writing) takes her into the hills: running. 'Racing across the Sydney Harbour Bridge during the Sydney Marathon was a highlight, but my favourite event is the Wellington Ultra Urban Marathon (WUU2K) which traverses the hills of Wellington.'

The inspiration for *Miracle* came from imagining a small town in which many people's lives were destroyed by an earthquake – a town that feels cursed. Against the wishes of the Boorunga High School Principal, the Year 12 debating team insists on the topic 'Did the quake cause the curse – or the curse cause the quake?'– making it the most anticipated debate in the school's history. Miracle worries that if the other team wins, her schoolmates might turn against her, since the circumstances of her birth is widely known.

'That was the starting point,' says Lane, 'an earthquake and the protagonist's name, which I also thought would make a great title. That, and a "cursed" town.

'As for the crematorium, my mum suggested that and I can't remember why. I really enjoyed the series *Six Feet Under* so I thought the crematorium world would be an intriguing one to explore.'

> *Although I've lived over half my life in New Zealand, it's the setting of my childhood that comes to mind when I sit down to write. I've heard other authors say they find it easier to write about a place from a distance, and that's something I can identify with.*

Reminiscent of Tim Winton's *Cloudstreet*, *Miracle* will appeal to both a general audience and to Young Adult.

Praise for *All Our Secrets*:

'A hugely enjoyable mash-up of small-town horror and coming-of-age story.'
New Zealand Herald

‘Coongahoola and Gracie’s family home are rich, warm, alive places in Lane’s rendering.’
Landfall

About the publisher

Cloud Ink Press is a publishing company based in Auckland. It was established in response to the changing New Zealand publishing environment and to ensure readers continue to have access to fresh voices on the New Zealand writing scene. They have published twelve fiction novels and three anthologies.

www.cloudink.co.nz