

# THE RIVER MOUTH

by **KAREN HERBERT**

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Fifteen-year-old Darren Davies is found facedown in the Weymouth River with a gunshot wound to his chest. The killer is never found. Ten years later, his mother receives a visit from the local police. Sandra's best friend has been found dead on a remote Pilbara road. And Barbara's DNA matches the DNA found under Darren's fingernails. When the investigation into her son's murder is reopened, Sandra begins to question what she knew about her best friend. As she digs, she discovers that there are many secrets in her small town, and that her murdered son had secrets too.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karen Herbert has worked in aged care, disability services, higher education, Indigenous land management, social housing and the public sector, and is a board member of The Intelife Group, Advocare Inc., and President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers WA. Born in Geraldton, Karen now lives in Perth with her husband, Ross. *The River Mouth* is her first book. Her second, *Cast Aways*, is out in 2022.

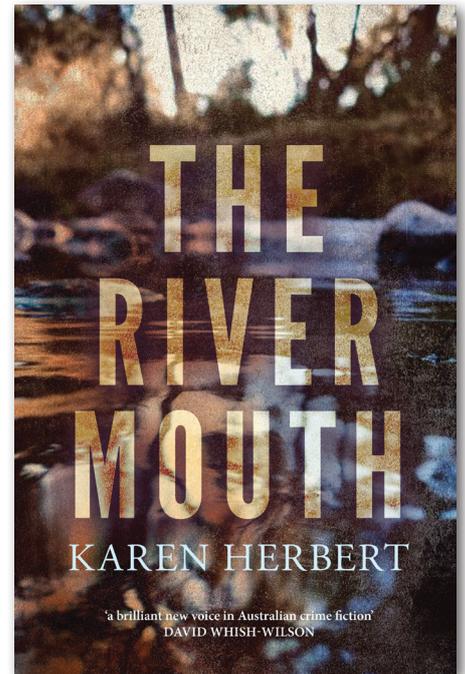


## NOTES

- Karen Herbert started writing the day after being made redundant from her job. Eighteen months later she had two books under contract.
- In a stunning debut that will keep you guessing till the last chapter, unhealed wounds are reopened when new DNA evidence gives a mother one last chance to discover the secret of her son's murder.
- *The River Mouth* is set amongst the complicated relationships of a regional town, where everyone – police officers, nurses, doctors, hairdressers, fishermen, school children, public servants and the homeless – knows everyone. The story spans the everyday complexity of the lives of ordinary people: people with disabilities, people without homes, people who have grown up without their biological parents, people living with violence, people navigating cultural displacement, people living with loss.

## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

'... tautly plotted, brilliantly characterised and laced with venomous moments that lay bare the town's racial and criminal histories. *The River Mouth* marks the debut of a brilliant new voice in Australian crime fiction.' David Whish-Wilson



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