

SKIMMING STONES

by **MARIA PAPAS**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Grace first met her lover, Nate, as a teenager, their bond forged in the corridors and waiting rooms where siblings of cancer patients sit on the sidelines. Now as an adult, Grace finds, nursing a comforting world of science and certainty. But the paediatric ward is also a place of miracles and heartbreak – when faced with a dramatic emergency – Grace is confronted with memories of her sister’s illness. Heading south to Lake Clifton and the haunts of her childhood, Grace discovers that a lake sends out ripples long after a stone has been cast.

Winner of the 2020 City of Fremantle Hungerford Award, *Skimming Stones* is Maria Papas’s debut novel about the lasting effects an illness can have on a family. It’s a heartfelt story full of hope and courage.

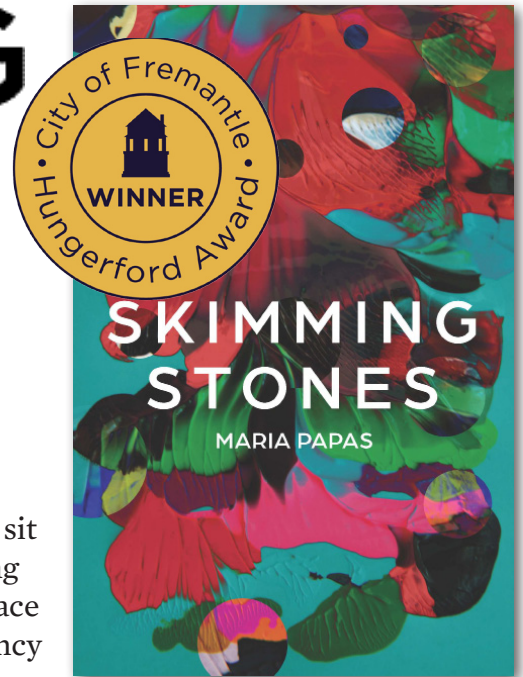
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maria Papas has published stories and essays in various journals including *TEXT*, *Griffith Review*, *Axon* and *The Letters Page*. She holds a PhD from the University of Western Australia. In 2020 the creative component of this PhD won the City of Fremantle Hungerford Award.



NOTES

- Maria Papas was winner of the 2020 City of Fremantle Hungerford award, a biennial prize in its 30th year. Past winners include Brenda Walker, Gail Jones, Natasha Lester and Holden Sheppard.
- She has already undertaken interviews with the media as part of the publicity from winning the literary award. Maria is the 2021 Fremantle Press Podcast host, with interviews released for Love to Read Local Week in June 2021.
- Maria is interested in representing illness and the trauma that continues beyond the actual illness itself, amongst the family members and friends who bear witness. She’s interested in sharing the interactions, guilts and empathies between healthy and sick siblings over time.
- This is a book that will resonate with the many people who have experienced major illness in their family.



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