

London, 6 August 2020.

Boldwood

New Fiona Higgins novel coming this October from Boldwood Books

Boldwood is delighted to announce that it has acquired two new titles from the bestselling Australian novelist Fiona Higgins, the first of which, *An Unusual Boy*, will be published on October 20th this year. The novel will be published globally and simultaneously in ebook, print and audiobook and will additionally be available in trade paperback in Australia via Booktopia. The latter will sell to independent booksellers and chains, as well as to readers directly via its online channel.

Over the past decade Fiona Higgins has become a favourite of readers who enjoy intriguing stories about the lives of authentic modern families and characters facing life-changing crises, many of which have a relatable familiarity. *An Unusual Boy* picks up on some of the themes and characters in her bestselling debut *The Mothers Group* (published 2012). Additionally, it explores the areas of neurodiversity, the complexities of parenting in an online world, and the importance of nurturing and embracing difference.

This is Fiona's fourth novel, inspired in part by her twenty-year involvement in the philanthropic sector with charitable organisations working with children. Her previous books have garnered considerable acclaim and have been variously hailed as 'an enthralling read' (*Fearless*); 'insightful and sensitively written' (*The Mothers Group*) and 'a page-turning domestic melodrama for the social media age' (*Wife on the Run*).

Boldwood Books are a recently founded independent UK publisher, publishing the very best in commercial fiction, who guarantee their authors global publishing in all formats. For this publication, they are partnering with Booktopia Publisher Services (Australia's largest book distributor) in an industry-first collaboration, to offer a trade paperback edition through both chain and independent booksellers and their own online sales channel.

Fiona Higgins comments: 'It's an honour to be working with Boldwood to bring this story to the world. Over the years, I've worked with so many inspiring services dealing with young people's mental wellbeing. It's an area I'm passionate about, not just professionally, but as a parent of three children. I wrote this novel as a hymn to human diversity, to the healing power of empathy, and as a tribute to the incredible resilience of parents under pressure.'

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Amanda Ridout Founder and CEO of Boldwood adds: 'We are thrilled to be publishing a novelist of Fiona's stature into the Australian market in such an innovative way. Whilst we look forward to delivering a global readership for Fiona's brilliant book, we are also welcoming this opportunity with Booktopia to create a bestseller in her own home territory and to supporting the Australian retail trade in this endeavour at such a challenging time. The quality of the book and the nature of Fiona's profile will ensure the book gains substantial attention and interest.'

Scott Whitmont Business Development & Relationship Manager for BPS said: 'We're delighted to represent *An Unusual Boy* across Australia and New Zealand, and to have an author of Fiona's calibre under our banner. This will be a must-have for every bookshop to have on their shelves and we're thrilled to be the Distributor.'

About Fiona Higgins



Fiona Higgins is the author of three previous novels - *Fearless*, *Wife on the Run* and *The Mothers' Group* - and a memoir, *Love in the Age of Drought*. Her novels have been translated internationally in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Spain and Estonia.

Outside of writing, Fiona has tertiary qualifications in the humanities, social sciences and Indonesian Studies, and a longstanding career in the Australian not-for-profit sector. Over the past twenty years, she has worked with organisations specializing in international development, youth at risk, rural and regional issues and youth mental health.

She is a founding director of [Australian Philanthropic Services](#) (APS), which inspires effective philanthropy and provides education and practical support for individuals and advisers. A passionate advocate for positive education strategies to support youth mental wellbeing, Fiona is a volunteer Crisis Support Worker on Australia's national crisis and suicide hotline, [Lifeline](#).

She lives in Sydney and enjoys ocean swimming, early morning runs and arguing about Monopoly with her three children.

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