



# The Not So Chosen One

KATE EMERY



## Praise for *The Not So Chosen One*

'*The Not So Chosen One* has everything I want in a portal fantasy—a protagonist with a strong, relatable and likable voice; a setting that feels real and grounded, both in our world and the magical one; and a plot that feels like a genuinely fresh take on a beloved trope. I loved this book to pieces.'

JODI McALISTER

## About Kate Emery

Kate Emery lives in Perth and works as a senior reporter for the *West Australian*. *The Not So Chosen One* is her first book and was shortlisted for the 2020 Text Prize.

## About the book

Lucy is just a regular teenager with regular worries: homework, friends, getting home for dinner on time. Oh, and there's the small matter of how she's going to tell her mother about her unplanned pregnancy.

When Lucy hears she's been enrolled in Drake's College, a school for students with magical talent, she's sure someone's messing with her. But despite her scepticism, she's soon swept up into a new double life—and now she's got something else to hide.

At Drake's, Lucy befriends the handsome Jack, a teacher's assistant who has secrets of his own. More concerningly, Lucy's 'talent' doesn't seem to be materialising, and one of the other students collapses in a mysterious incident. There's danger in the air...

Clever, laugh-out-loud funny and sprinkled with romance, *The Not So Chosen One* is utterly charming.

## Questions for discussion

1. Discuss the way that the various characters react to the news of Lucy's pregnancy. How does the author challenge the reader's (and Lucy's own) assumptions about how people will react to the news?
2. How does Lucy feel about keeping secrets from her mum and her best friend? Is she being disloyal to them by not telling them what's going on?
3. How does the real-world setting of the book (Perth, Western Australia) compare to the magical setting of Drake's? How is Drake's similar or different to other magical settings you've encountered in fiction?
4. What red herrings does the author introduce to obscure the identity of the book's villain? Discuss the way the clues come together at the end.
5. How does Lucy feel about her life prior to being accepted into Drake's? How does she feel about returning to it after being expelled?
6. George tells Lucy, 'We were born the same: a little bit useless.' (p. 349) On the surface, their lack of magical abilities does make them similar, but are they really? What differs in their motivations and desires?



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7. George defends his actions (kidnapping Lucy to prevent her from having an abortion) by saying that wanting to get rid of it is a 'waste'. (p. 335) Should the baby's potential be a factor in Lucy's right to choose what she does with her body?
8. How else does the writer explore the theme of potential in the book? Do individuals have any control over their potential?
9. Why do you think George was unable to hurt Lucy when he found her with Andrea? What do you think protected her? How does this protection feed into your interpretation of the book's closing scene?
10. Do you believe that Jack's feelings for Lucy are genuine? What do you think would happen to their relationship if Lucy agreed to have her memory of Drake's wiped?
11. What do you think motivates Mr Spanish? Does he care about George's wellbeing?
12. Discuss the ethics of meddling with people's memories. Mr Horster argues that while the rules might seem out of date they have 'always worked best for us'. (p. 216) Is this an adequate defence? Why is it important that Drake's remain secret from the non-magic world? What about the ethics then of wiping all of the students' memories of Andrea?
13. What do you think happens at the end of the book? What signs are there that suggest things with Bea may not have gone as planned?