

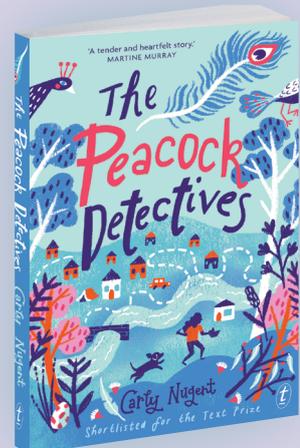
# The Peacock Detectives



Carly Nugent

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FICTION, TRADE PAPERBACK

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## Praise for Carly Nugent and *The Peacock Detectives*

'A tender and heartfelt story.'  
Martine Murray

'Heartfelt and funny...Carly Nugent's debut is a lively and generous story that acknowledges the powerful feelings of its readers, and the space they occupy in the world.'  
*Books+Publishing*

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## About Carly Nugent

Carly Nugent lives in Brighton in Victoria. Her short fiction has featured in numerous publications, including the *Bellevue Literary Review* and *Award Winning Australian Writing*. *The Peacock Detectives* is her first novel.

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## A reader's introduction to *The Peacock Detectives*

Eleven-year-old Cassie Anderson loves to tell stories. When the two peacocks that live opposite her house go missing, Cassie decides to become a detective and write the story of how she came to solve the case of the missing peacocks.

With the help of her English Literature teacher dad, Cassie introduces the reader to the different puzzle pieces that comprise the jigsaw of storytelling; an inciting incident, a Red Herring, a climax and resolution.

What soon becomes apparent in Cassie's story, is that she too has unintentionally included a Red Herring in her story. The real mystery is not the missing peacocks but where her Dad really goes when he says he is leaving for work in the morning.

With the help of her best friend Jonas, Cassie must piece together the clues behind her father's silence

and why he is hoarding ornamental decorations in the laundry cupboard.

*The Peacock Detectives* is a familiar but important story. It's a novel about family, friendship and the secret battles we all face on a day-to-day basis.

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## Questions for discussion

1. 'An Inciting Incident is something that happens to get the story started.' (p. 4) What initially do we believe is the Inciting Incident in *The Peacock Detectives*? Is there more than one inciting incident in the story?
2. 'A Red Herring is something that seems important but actually isn't.' (p. 71) What is the Red Herring in *The Peacock Detectives*?
3. "'You shouldn't lie like that, Cassie,'" Diana said, in a quiet voice. "It's not funny.'" (p. 23) Cassie and Diana remember their family holiday very differently. How does Cassie remember the holiday? Why do the two girls remember the holiday differently?
4. What makes a character important in a story? Who are the important characters in the novel? Why are they important in this particular story?
5. Cassie narrates *The Peacock Detectives* from beginning to end—the reader sees the other characters and the events unfold through her eyes. Does Cassie accurately tell the story? Is Cassie a reliable narrator? Why or why not?
6. How would *The Peacock Detectives* be a different story if Diana was the narrator? The plot and narrative would be the same, but would anything be different?
7. There are many examples of unconventional and complicated friendships in *The Peacock*

*Detectives.* What are some examples? Why are they complicated or unconventional?

8. Does everyone read a book the same way? Why do you think people might read a book differently and understand it in different ways?
9. 'Once I came up with the that story I didn't feel so sad about not sitting with them anymore.' (p. 43)  
How does storytelling help Cassie deal with her problems?
10. 'Mum says I'm not allowed to go over the bridge by myself, because over the bridge is The Other Side of Town.' (p. 37) What does the bridge symbolise in the story? Does this ever change?