



The Brink

HOLDEN SHEPPARD



Praise for *The Brink*

'A ride you'll never forget. I loved, loved, love *The Brink*.' Scot Gardner

'Raw, exhilarating and emotionally charged, an absolute must read!' Gary Lonesborough

'I absolutely tore through this book. I could not put it down.' Tobias Madden

'A vivid, thrilling, edge-of-your-seat read.' Claire Christian

'Utterly unique and a great, roaring breath of fresh air.' Nigel Featherstone

About Holden Sheppard

Holden Sheppard is an award-winning author born in Geraldton, Western Australia. His debut novel, *Invisible Boys* (Fremantle Press, 2019), was published to both critical and commercial success. It won the WA Premier's Prize for an Emerging Writer, was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and was named a Notable Book by the Children's Book Council of Australia. *Invisible Boys* is currently in production as a television series.

About the book

The Brink is a raw, powerful novel that pulls no punches in its authentic exploration of masculinity, sexuality, mental health, drug and alcohol use, relationships and sex. Holden Sheppard takes the teenage experience to the next level.

WARNING: SPOILERS AHEAD

Discussion questions

1. Which character did you relate to the most?
2. What unites the main characters?
3. Was the Leavers' response to finding Baz's body justified?
4. Did you believe Val when she says the deaths of Baz and Jared were accidental?
5. 'Just this week, just this once, I want to be bad,' (p. 27) says Kaiya, when they set out on the trip. Why does she want this so much?
6. Did you go to Leavers or Schoolies? What was your experience?
7. How did the experience on Brink Island impact the Leavers' lives?
8. 'There's no room here for lies: all our truths are out now.' (p. 293) How is the truth liberating?
9. If Jared hadn't died, how might the week have ended?
10. What does *The Brink* say about the teenage experience in Australia? Has it changed since the last generation?