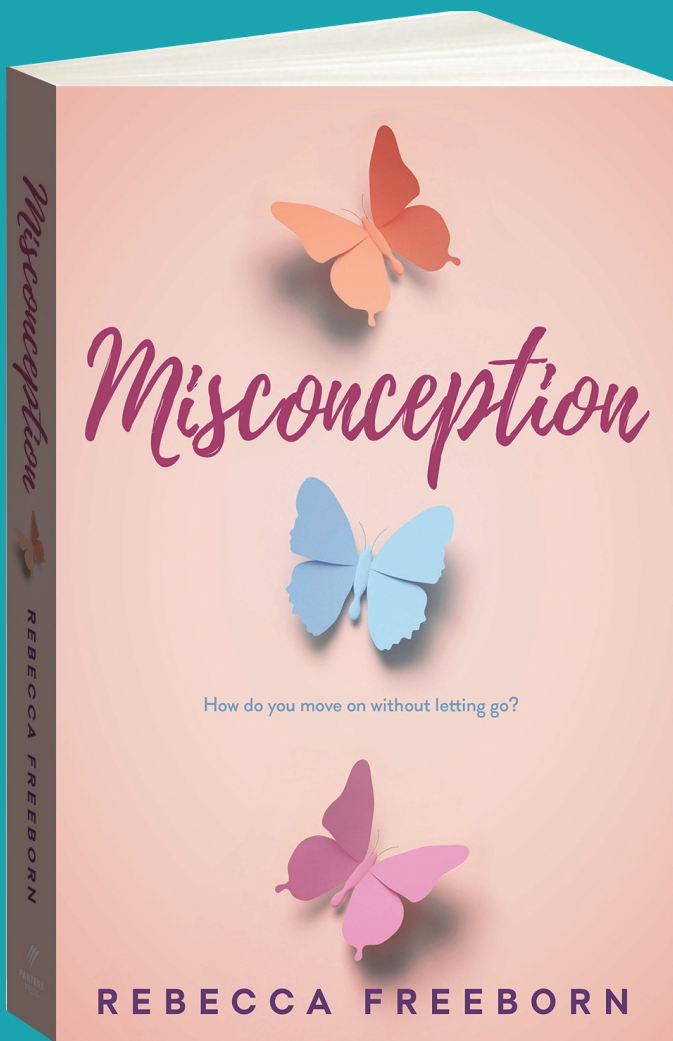




**PANTERA  
PRESS**

SPARKING  
IMAGINATION,  
CONVERSATION  
& CHANGE

# BOOK CLUB NOTES



**Praise for Freeborn's books:**

*"An emotionally charged read, visceral and deep, the book tackles challenging themes and sheds a light on stories that often go unheard."*

Feminartsy

*"The writing is top-grade, dialogue witty and descriptions of food will make your mouth water."*

Sam Bond, Glam Adelaide

*"This novel has many strengths, none more so than the pitch-perfect dialogue and real suspense. Yet what lingers is that it is all so possible."*

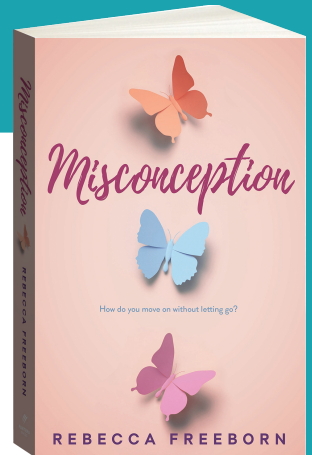
Christopher Bantick, Melbourne Weekly Times

# BOOK CLUB NOTES



SPARKING  
IMAGINATION,  
CONVERSATION  
& CHANGE

## THE GIRL SHE WAS by Rebecca Freeborn



*'The invisible thread between them tightened, strengthened, bound them together. And now she was walking towards him, about to become his wife, and there was nothing in the world that could sever that thread.'*

Ali and Tom are the perfect couple. They both have successful careers and are still madly in love after ten years. But when they are told their unborn baby has died, their picture-perfect life is shattered.

Faced with an empty room, the prospect of catching up with friends and returning to work, Ali feels her control over the reality she wanted slipping further and further away.

When Ali's irresponsible mother re-enters her life, Ali discovers secrets from a past she'd forgotten ever existed.

Will Ali and Tom ever be able to find their way back to each other? And will Ali find a way to move forward without letting go of her memories?

### About the author

Rebecca Freeborn lives in the beautiful Adelaide Hills with a husband, three kids, a dog, a cat, a horse, more books than she can fit in her bookcase and an ever-diminishing wine collection.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in Professional and Creative Communications and now works as a communications and content editor for the South Australian Government where she screams into the void against passive voice and unnecessary capitalisation.

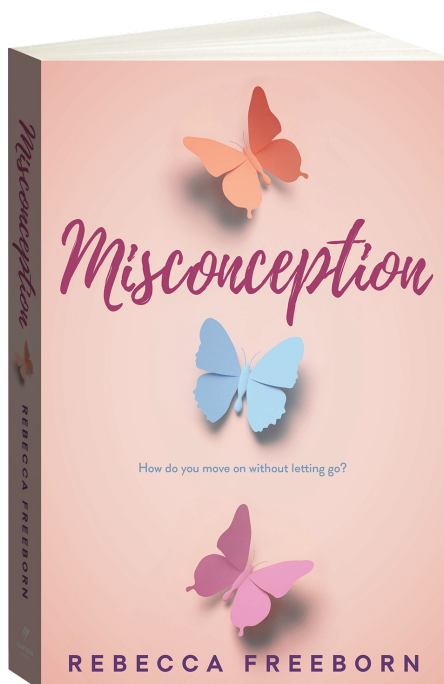
Rebecca loves strong, witty female characters, and wrote *Hot Pursuit* because she wanted to escape the focus on fashion and personal appearance that is so common in contemporary women's fiction. Her second book, *Misconception*, explores the silence around stillbirth and miscarriage.

She writes before the sun comes up and spends her moments of spare time reading novels and feminist articles and compulsively checking Facebook.



# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. Which character's journey did you resonate with the most?
2. Ali and Tom try to deal with the loss of their child in a number of different ways. Which of the approaches were the most effective? Have you had any experience with people grieving in these ways?
3. Do you think Ali would have dealt with her traumatic childhood memories had it not have been for the loss of Elizabeth?
4. What is the significance of Ali's reconciliation with her mother? Do you think this played a pivotal role in Ali's recovery?
5. Did the other characters in the story help facilitate Tom and Ali's grieving process and recovery? What was the best support they received?
6. Did you find Tom's perspective surprising in any way?
7. What do you think the flashbacks added to the story?
8. What were some of the factors that led to the deterioration of Ali and Tom's relationship?
9. To what extent did Ali's unplanned pregnancy aid in the reconciliation of her and Tom's marriage? Was the conception of a second child essential for the resolution their story?
10. What role does work play in the grieving process for both Tom and Ali, and how do their experiences differ?



## More by Rebecca Freeborn

