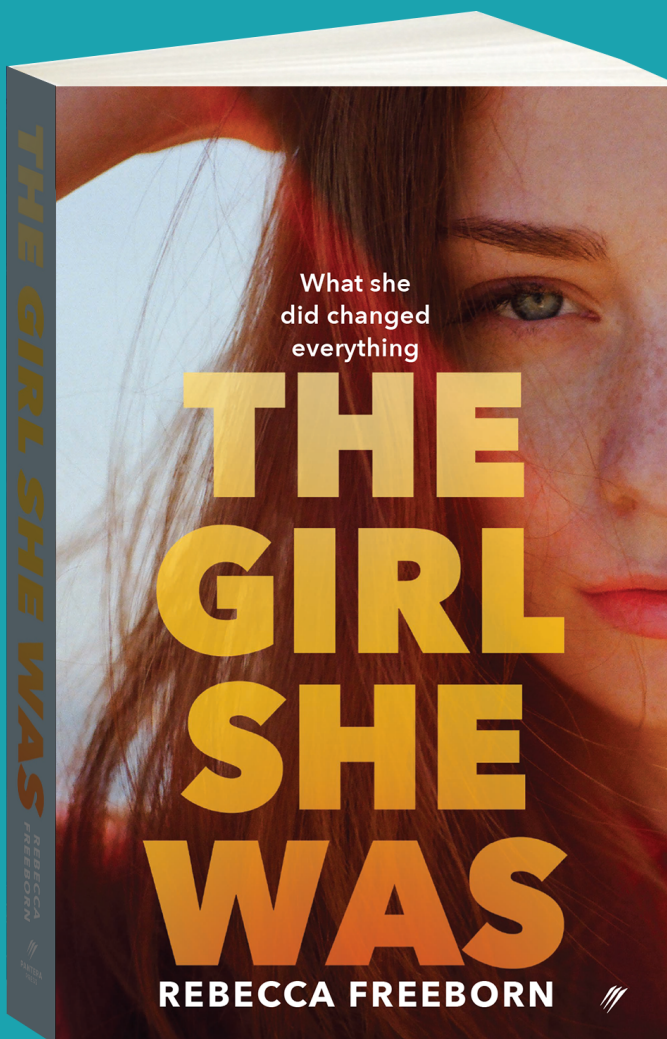




**PANTERA
PRESS**

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
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THE GIRL SHE WAS

by Rebecca Freeborn



'She'd long ago stopped wondering whether anyone would find out what she'd done. It was in the past, and Layla didn't dwell on the past.'

At the cafe in the small town of Glasswater Bay where she works after school, seventeen-year-old Layla enters into a volatile relationship with her married boss.

Twenty years later, she receives a message from her former boss's wife.

As Layla relives the events from her youth that have shaped her present, her past starts to infiltrate her life in a way she can no longer ignore.

She's run from her town, her friends and the memory of what she's done. Now she must face them all.

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.

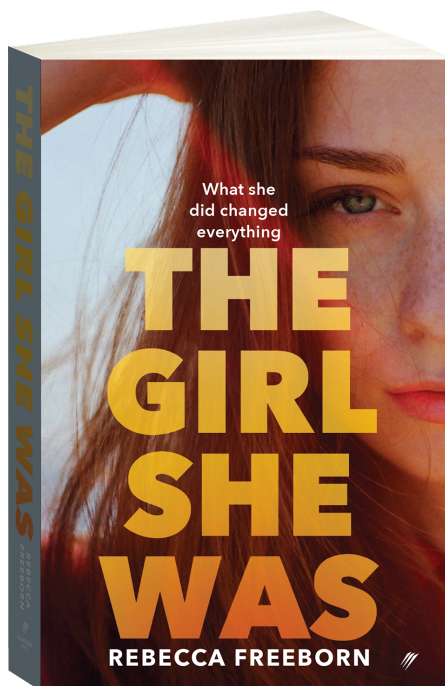
Rebecca loves strong, witty female characters, and wrote *Hot Pursuit* because she wanted to escape the focus on fashion and personal appearance that is so common in contemporary women's fiction. Her second book, *Misconception*, explores the silence around stillbirth and miscarriage.

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. Discuss the significance of the Hannah Gadsby quote: 'A seventeen-year-old girl is just never, ever in her prime. Ever.'
2. One of the main themes in the novel is the issue of consent. Do you think consent is more complex than an age and a simple yes or no? Should the power differential also be a consideration?
3. Which character did you connect with the most?
4. In what ways does Layla's past affect her in the present?
5. How would you describe Shona, Renee and Layla's friendship? Discuss the importance of female friendship in this story.
6. How would you describe Scott's behaviour towards Layla?
7. Why do you think Layla felt like she couldn't share her past with Cam? Do you think it's better to know about your partner's past relationship history or not?
8. How do you feel about the resolution between Layla and Cam? Do you think their relationship will survive?
9. What role do you think Matty played in the story?
10. Do you think Jodie was justified in seeking Layla out? How did their confrontation leave you feeling?
11. What similarities did Layla share with Jodie?
12. How was Layla's relationship with her mother impacted by the affair with Scott?



More by Rebecca Freeborn

