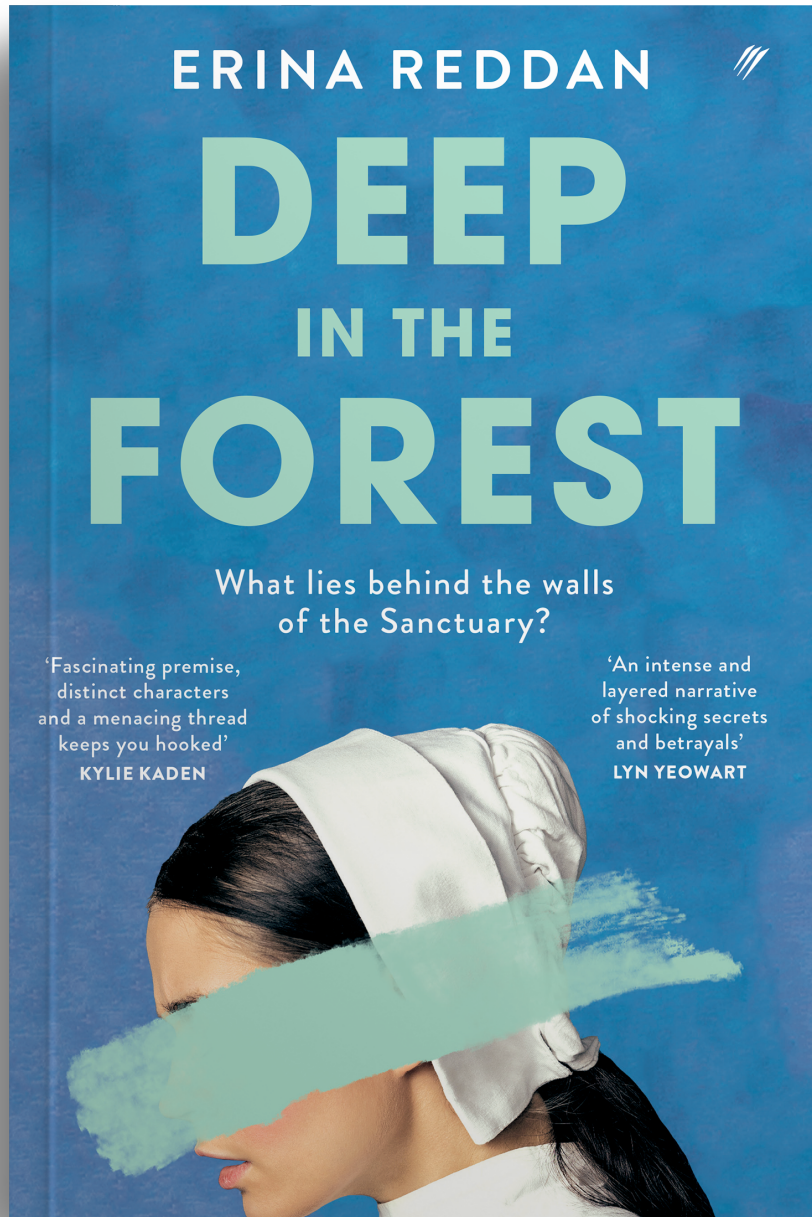


# BOOK CLUB NOTES

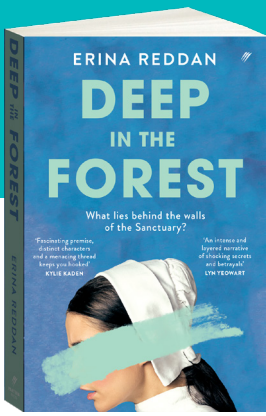


## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

*'An intense and layered narrative of shocking secrets and betrayals.'* Lyn Yeowart, author of *The Silent Listener*

*'Fascinating premise, distinct characters and a menacing thread keeps you hooked ... for fans of The Handmaid's Tale.'* Kylie Kaden, author of *The Day the Lies Began*

*'An eye-opening insight into the utopian cult-like communities that may very well be nestled in our own backyard. Deep in the Forest will rip you open and leave you chilled to the bone long after its final full stop.'* Veronica Lando, author of *The Whispering*



# DEEP IN THE FOREST

## By Erina Reddan

### ABOUT THE BOOK

*'Urgent. Come tomorrow. Can't wait any longer.'*

Charli Trenthan plans to leave her hometown of Stone Lake. But when she receives a cryptic message from a member of the Sanctuary, a conservative closed community nestled in the forest, she is determined to find answers.

A gruesome discovery soon lands Charli in hot water with the police, but how is the Sanctuary connected? As she digs deeper, dark secrets are uncovered and the fight to prove her innocence turns into a fight for her life.

A gripping thriller with a shocking conclusion that will leave you spellbound, *Deep in the Forest* raises questions about who we trust and why.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erina has worked with words, ideas and stories all her life. She started out as a journalist, working in radio and television and was awarded the prestigious Walkley Award for her work as an ABC foreign correspondent. She has a Master's Degree in Professional Writing (University of Technology Sydney) and a PhD in Creative Writing (La Trobe University) on girl warriors and ball gowns. She's taught politics at the University of Melbourne and creative writing at LaTrobe University and Writers Victoria. Her family claims she can glamorise a handful of facts beyond recognition in the service of an entertaining story, sometimes at the expense of truth but always in favour of wonder.

1. Why does Charli feel the need to escape Stone Lake?
2. The town is filled with interesting side characters. Did you have a favourite? Who were they, and what did you like about them?
3. Describe the relationship between Charli and Amra.
4. Books and stories are a kind of magic to Charli – how do they help and/or hinder her?
5. How has Charli's grief affected her? Do you notice any changes in her by the end of the novel?
6. Why do you think Zack joined the Sanctuary?
7. Power is a strong theme throughout this book – how do different characters use their power?
8. What are the differences between Detective Karla Hofmann and Sergeant Nick Balaskas?
9. What do you make of the Reverend's wife, Mercy, and her role in the community?
10. Did you guess who was behind the murder? Did you suspect anyone else?
11. Were you surprised by the type of person Zack turned out to be? Did you notice any clues along the way?
12. Do you think that the power Zack had over Charli has any similarities to the power that a cult has over its members? Why/why not?
13. Do you think there are any benefits to a closed community like the Sanctuary? Do you think it's possible for this kind of place to be a positive environment?

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## PREVIOUS BOOKS FROM THE AUTHOR

