

On Brunswick Ground

CATHERINE DE SAINT PHALLE

In the Melbourne suburb of Brunswick, a female narrator, who remains unnamed is trying to come to terms with the absence of Jack, the man she loves. In a bar she meets Bernice, a radio personality, in her late thirties and flirting with IVF. Finding a job as a gardener, she discovers that her co-worker, Mitali, has an unresolved mourning that attracts other deaths into its orbit. Later on, she befriends the resolutely mysterious bar owner, Sarah, and her daughter, Mary, who has, for potent (and as yet unrevealed) reasons, converted to Islam and donned a burqa.

The lives of these women are characterised by love and loss, and are woven together by their shared grieving at the senseless death of local resident Jill Meagher.

On Brunswick Ground traverses the world of longing and personal loss with an assured and literary touch. It is novel that is also heart-warming, and affirming. Catherine de Saint Phalle truly understands the surprising ways in which tragedy and loss can tighten the bonds of friendship and of a community.

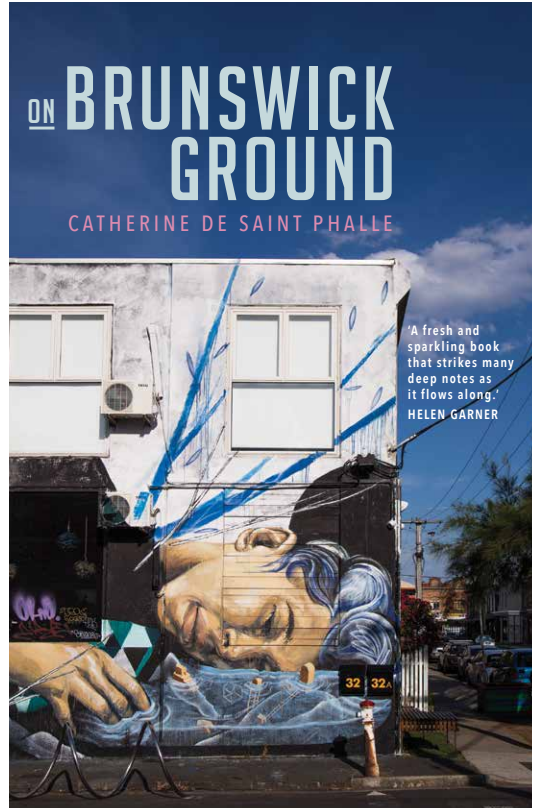
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A FRESH AND
SPARKLING BOOK
THAT STRIKES MANY
DEEP NOTES AS
IT FLOWS ALONG.

HELEN GARNER



Praise for *On Brunswick Ground*

Assured and poetic , the book has the affectionate and closely observed feel of an outsider who has made herself at home . Verdict: on solid ground. *Herald Sun*

Catherine De Saint Phalle's lyrical meditation on loss and grief employs an unnamed narrator as a focal point from which to explore the mutual sympathy of female friendships even as they are all smarting from their own respective problems. It's a quiet, contemplative and affecting book with silvery poetic slivers throughout, a cat's "Confucian dignity" a mind escaping like a "shoal of fish", a face closing "with a slam".

The Sunday Age



Catherine de Saint Phalle has had five novels published in France and translated Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* for the French market. In 2003 she moved to Australia because the sky is bigger. A French tutor, she also curates a small art gallery in Brunswick, where she is ensconced with her partner, a poet and bookseller.