

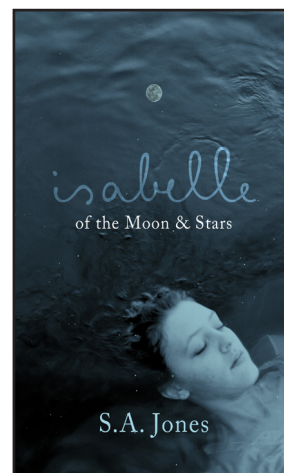
UWA Publishing

# Media Release

Release date: 1 November 2014

## Isabelle of the Moon and Stars

S.A. Jones



ISBN 9781742586038  
\$27.99 pb 320 pages

Following her acclaimed debut *Red Dress Walking* — hailed as a ‘promising debut’ by the *Australian Book Review* and a ‘beautifully written and intellectually interesting novel’ by the *Sydney Morning Herald* — S.A. Jones returns with a novel that confirms her talent.

*Isabelle of the Moon and Stars* is a provocative, funny and tender novel about the dark places from one of Australia’s brightest new voices.

### THE STORY

Isabelle is stuck in a dead-end government job, trying desperately to keep it together and ward off The Black Place.

Her best friend Evan is her safe haven: they laugh at each other’s jokes, share the same interests, and take the piss out of each other with the ruthless efficiency of long acquaintance.

Sex isn’t an issue because Evan has made a bargain with God to keep it in his pants, and Isabelle is still recovering from being deserted by her fiancé.

But as Evan reconsiders his vow, Isabelle contrives a bizarre passion for her boss.

Everything implodes one suffocatingly hot Australia Day. Escaping the resulting chaos, Isabelle flees to Prague where she struggles to confront her fears through the lens of history.

### TALKING POINTS

- A sensitive and deeply realistic portrayal of mental illness.
- Connects the personal and the universal in a narrative that links dark psychological corners with grim history.
- The author has a ‘double life’ as a well-known freelance reviewer and writer on the one hand, and a General Manager who has been named one of Australia’s ‘100 Women of Influence’ on the other.

**Turn over for more about S.A. Jones**

### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

INTERVIEWS \* EXTRACTS \* IMAGES \* REVIEW COPIES are available  
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# Isabelle of the Moon and Stars

**S.A. Jones**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**S.A. (Sarah) Jones** was born in England and raised on a remote island in the Buccaneer Archipelago off the Kimberley coast of Western Australia.

Jones' essays, opinion pieces and reviews have appeared in *The Age*, *Crikey*, *The Guardian*, *The Drum*, *Mamamia* and *Kill Your Darlings*. She has been shortlisted for the Fish International Short Story Prize and Memoir Prize.

In 2013 she was named one of Australia's '100 Women of Influence' by the *Australian Financial Review* and Westpac for her work in public policy.

She holds a PhD in History from the University of Western Australia. She has had an eclectic career including stints as an academic, shadow-Ministerial staffer, magazine editor, researcher, policy and regulatory analyst and project director, manager of a taxi unit, and General Manager of Pastoral Lands. She is currently a regulatory analyst for a major transport company (aka "Boss of Trucks").

Jones currently lives in Melbourne with her husband and daughter. She previously lived in Perth.

## ON WRITING *ISABELLE OF THE MOON AND STARS*

"I wrote this book partly out of a dissatisfaction with the way mental illness is portrayed in contemporary culture. Works like *Silver Linings Playbook* and *The Rosie Project* suggest mental illness is a quirky idiosyncrasy and that its vicissitudes are conquerable by love.

*Isabelle of the Moon and Stars* wants to tell the truth about depression and anxiety without being maudlin or reductive. The heroine — Isabelle — is gutsy, flawed, determined and human.

"The other major character, Evan, is a type we rarely see in contemporary fiction: a man of faith driven by values. Together they explore the big human questions: what is it to be good? How should we respond to darkness, both personal and historical? How do we bear the weight of things bigger than us?

"As a historian, I am interested in how the past is remembered. Whilst doing research for this book I was struck by the different ways in which nations form their historical narrative. Travelling from Australia to the Czech Republic to Germany brought those differences home in compelling and confronting ways.

"It has become a surprisingly funny book about dark places: psychological, historical and spiritual."



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