

Miles Franklin Literary Award 2007
Longlist

Beyond the Break

Sandra Hall

HarperCollins Publisher Australia

A wonderfully bittersweet tale of female friendship, lost loves, mothers and daughters, and the secrets that can unfurl within families ...

Steph, an Australian journalist living in New York, is devastated by the sudden death of Annie, who has been her closest friend since their shared childhood in the Sydney seaside suburb of Coogee thirty years before.

Returning to Australia at the height of a summer heatwave, Steph tries to account for the reasons behind Annie's death. At the same time, she renews her relationship with the man once loved by both friends, finding herself confronted by questions of family, friendship, and fundamental rivalries never properly resolved or even acknowledge.

Beyond the Break explores the past and the surprises it can reveal to haunting effect. Evoking suburban Sydney of the 1950s with astonishing clarity, it also recreates the opportunistic mood of 1980s Australia, in which Steph struggles to deal with conflicts she thought she had long since left behind.

'A city, a time, a love, so vividly and unerringly described you can smell the frangipani and taste the sea breeze.' Robert Drewe

About Sandra Hall

Sandra Hall is well known for her film reviews in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Bulletin*. She has written one previous novel and two books on the history of television. Sandra lives in Sydney.