

SYLVIA PETTER
ALL THE BEAUTIFUL
LIARS

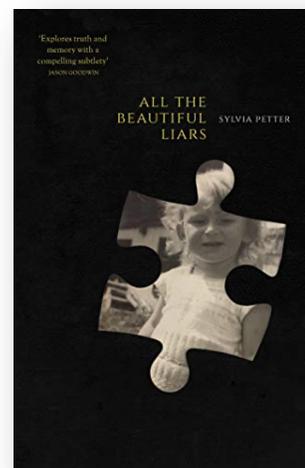
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‘A stylistically daring, hurricane-paced and genuinely impressive feat of the imagination’ – Billy O’Callaghan

How true are the family histories that tell us who we are and where we come from? Who knows how much all the beautiful liars have embargoed or embellished the truth?

During a long flight from Europe to Sydney to bury her mother, Australian expat Katrina Klain reviews the fading narrative of her family and her long quest to understand her true origins. This has already taken her to Vienna, where she met her Uncle Harald who embezzled the Austrian government out of millions, as well as Carl Sokorny, the godson of one of Hitler’s most notorious generals, and then on to Geneva and Madrid. Not only were her family caught up with the Nazis, they also turn out to have been involved with the Stasi in post-war East Germany.

It’s a lot to come to terms with, but there are more revelations in store. After the funeral, she finds letters that reveal a dramatic twist which means her own identity must take a radical shift. Will these discoveries enable her to complete the puzzle of her family’s past?

Inspired by her own life story, Sylvia Petter’s richly imaginative debut novel, set between the new world and the old, is a powerful tale about making peace with the past and finding closure for the future.

SYLVIA PETTER contributed to many of the most successful radio and TV shows of the Eighties and Nineties, writing for Spitting Image, Rory Bremner and Jasper Carrott. He wrote the screenplay for the 2005 feature animation film *The Magic Roundabout* and has written and produced music videos with Kate Bush and Ken Russell. He is a former creative director of the London Comedy Writers Festival. His first novel, *Utter Folly*, topped Amazon's humorous fiction chart when it was published in 2012. His second novel, *Dead Writers in Rehab*, was published by Unbound in 2017.

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PRAISE

‘Straddling the line between memoir and fiction, *All The Beautiful Liars* is a stylistically daring, hurricane-paced and genuinely impressive feat of the imagination. Sylvia Petter not only displays a rare mastery of characterisation but tells a gripping story. On a sentence level alone, this book is a joy, but what elevates it to rarefied levels is the magnitude of its courage. The result is a novel full of heart that should earn its author a wide and enthusiastic readership’ **Billy O’Callaghan**

‘A mosaic primarily made of a family memoir, with its mesh of relationships, past and present, the unravelling of decades-old secrets from a Europe that includes Nazi Germany, paced like a thriller, and an engaging evocation of the nuances of reaching adulthood. The melding of these diverse elements ensures a compelling read’ **Meg Stewart**

‘Explores truth and memory with a compelling subtlety’ **Jason Goodwin**