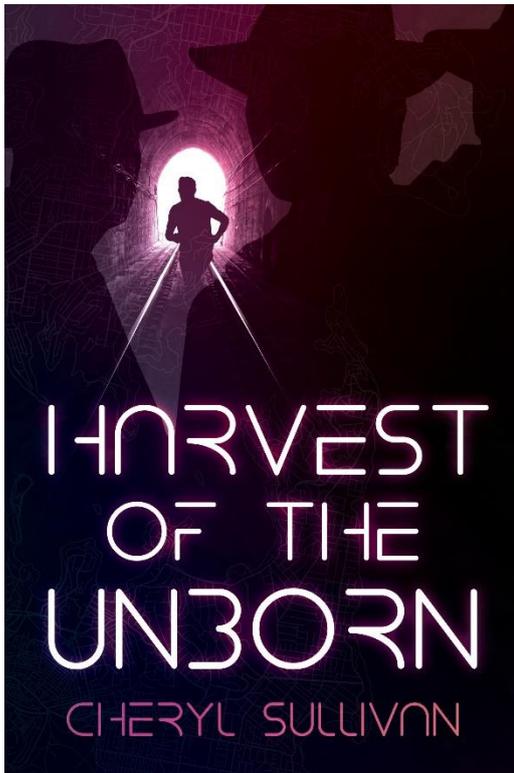


HARVEST OF THE UNBORN

CHERYL SULLIVAN



A TIME DURING POST WWII, SYDNEY IS THE PLACE OF CULTURE AND CELEBRATION FOR MANY, BUT IT IS ALSO THE CITY OF DARKER SECRETS...

Investigative journalist Charlotte Tyrell seeks out the reasons for a woman's disappearance from a Kings Cross boarding house. Then another beautiful young girl disappears from the boarding house and under very suspicious circumstances.

Is the Landlady and her strange twin daughters who operate the disturbing house for boarders responsible, or is something, or someone, more sinister at play?

The locked basement, where Charlotte discovers the missing girl's belongings, is bare upon investigation by Detective Michael Devlin, who takes the search for the girls personally, as his sister, Madelaine, is also missing.

His friend, Madelaine's fiancé, and war veteran, Joseph Moody, has rejected society to find solace in the abandoned tunnels beneath St James Rail Station. Joseph constantly struggles against fatigue and his nightmares where foreboding figures carry unconscious women through a shimmering light. He has no idea if his visions are real or not. With their lives at stake, Charlotte, Michael and Joseph will discover the answers they seek to everything they fear, and the only question left to answer will be – *can they survive the truth?*

AUTHOR BIO

Cheryl Sullivan is a Queensland writer. She was raised and educated in Ipswich, began writing as a single parent in Mooloolaba and in 2010 committed fully to her writing after moving to Brisbane. *Harvest of the Unborn*, a paranormal thriller set in the past, is her first novel.

The idea for *Harvest of the Unborn* was first developed through numerous writing courses at Queensland Writers Centre, where Cheryl first pursued her interest in creative writing. She joined the Brisbane Writers' Group to practice her craft and later accepted an offer to co-ordinate the group.

Cheryl has twice been shortlisted for Queensland Writers Centre's Adaptable program. She is also a recipient of the 2019 Brisbane Lord Mayor's Australia Day Achievement Award for her encouragement of writers of all genres. In her spare time, Cheryl enjoys painting with acrylics and is a life-long learner, always keen to develop her writing craft.

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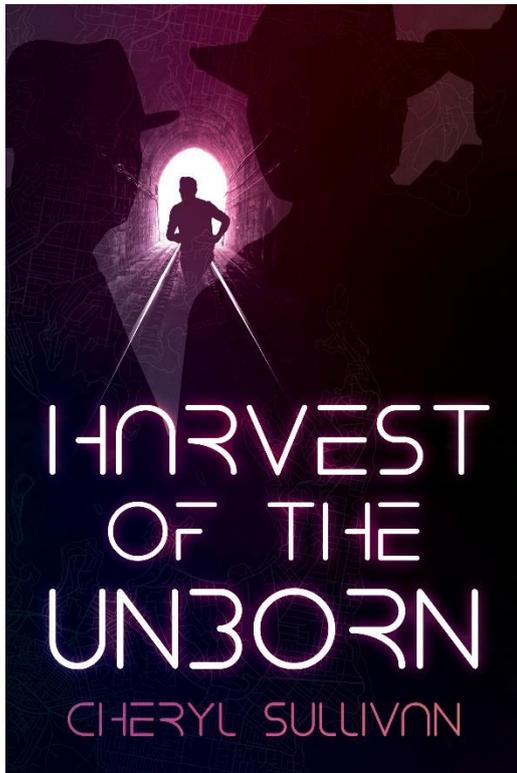
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE 'HARVEST OF THE UNBORN'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

Inspiration arrived while completing a writing exercise about two people meeting in a bar on a rainy day. My thoughts took me to an old-fashioned bar of dark timbers and booths, dimmed lights, stained glass windows with clear oval glass so outsiders could peer through. Odours of stale beer, fuggy air from cigars and cigarettes, whispers between men with underground connections. Not a normal public bar.

My initial setting was post war Berlin but as I have never been in that city I searched for another place. A place where strange things might happen. Not science fiction but something sinister but not quite as bad as the holocaust and anything that bad. Breeding a new race. IVF programs. I questioned myself, still the idea hounded me for weeks until I started to put pen to paper.

Abandoned places beneath a city. No matter what website I looked at, St James Railway station abandoned tunnels in Sydney, kept showing up on my laptop screen. I was hooked. My characters needed a little bit of a nudge now and then, but most were obliging as I named and described each one. War vet is based on young men mentally damaged from battle fatigue. My journalist stepped into a new world where women began to step out of the kitchen and move into the world of men, pilots, journalists, etc. Women broke down barriers. I grew up in the fifties in a working-class family. Most of these women stayed at home. I tried to portray the struggle some women had, for instance, single mothers were shunned and locked away in places where babies were taken away at birth. I touched on a couple of these issues.

The twist of my overall theme is that the old people on the other side of the tunnel are the descendants of the current characters. But that is divulged in the sequel "Beyond the Tunnels".

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO HELP OTHERS BECOME A BETTER WRITER? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

Join a writing group. The writers within a group offer support and encouragement. Accept that sometimes we writers have to kill off our darlings to improve the readability of our stories. Search for appropriate programs that help authors to achieve their goals.

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