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Audience	General
Author Location	Brisbane, QLD

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WELCOME THE NUDGE OF TINY FAE WINGS SKIMMING YOUR CHEEK. UNFURL YOUR OWN, BELOVED. PREPARE TO BE SPIRITED AWAY.

Fearing culpability for the loss of someone close, unpredictable firecracker, Fleur Alton, resorts to ripping everything apart: family, Tripp... even herself.

She aches for a supernatural power her mother Grace calls *beyond*, which often works with Nature, revealing portents to seers.

Fleur wills the 'gift' to empower her to find something deeper in life. She refuses to become shallow like her tormenting nemesis, who delights in digging away at dead things.

But beyond has its own agenda.

Caught in the liminal space between what she thinks she wants and what the universe decides must be, can a magical alliance and the tears from a sage old eucalypt save Fleur?

Will she find her niche? Will it ultimately find her?

NICHE IS THE FIERY CONCLUSION TO THE CRYING TREE DUOLOGY.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fascinated by human behaviour, Jane Ireland studied psychology, finding reward in nursing, and teaching students from diverse backgrounds. *Niche* is the final novel in *The Crying Tree Series*, her vibrant debut novel *Emigree* being the first. While she pursues imaginative literature, her writers' group provides inspiration for honing her craft. She has been awarded Highly Commended, and Runner-up, in writing competitions. Generously, she has been compared to Annie Proulx in her earlier writing days. A proud member of Queensland Writers Centre, Jane lives with her family, and assorted wildlife, on a rugged mountaintop in Brisbane's outskirts.

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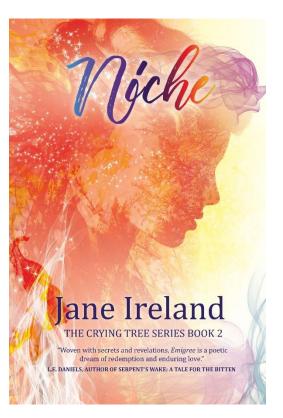
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR WHO IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE FOR *NICHE*?

I write for adults, as I can explore dark topics. Niche should appeal to lovers of Australian fiction incorporating historical elements from the 1960s, and those who enjoy modern magic realism, variations of which are included in Niche. Although Niche is the second novel in a duology it can be read as a standalone.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR ARTISTIC PROCESS?

For me, the most difficult part is plot and structure. I have lots of ideas but getting them together unscrambled, with each character knowing or not knowing information or secrets, and being or not being in a certain place at a certain time, well, that's tricky. I always go through a period of great angst, just before the breakthrough. At the time, I wonder why I do it! But when it all comes together, I know why.

WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DO YOU DO?

I try visiting the place I set my story and gather data from there. I take photos and videos, and stroll around the area surveying the people, architecture, flora and fauna. I take notes, try to talk to residents, and visit historical sites. I employ all my senses to absorb the sights, smells, sounds, tastes, and general feel of the area. I try to picture my characters in the setting and imagine any challenges possibly posed by its geographical and social composition. I study books, reputable sites on the internet, and sometimes Google maps. I believe setting can almost be a character itself, for example by how it reflects the trials or celebrations of the characters. I like to observe people, listening to what they say and inferring information from their body language.

Also by

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