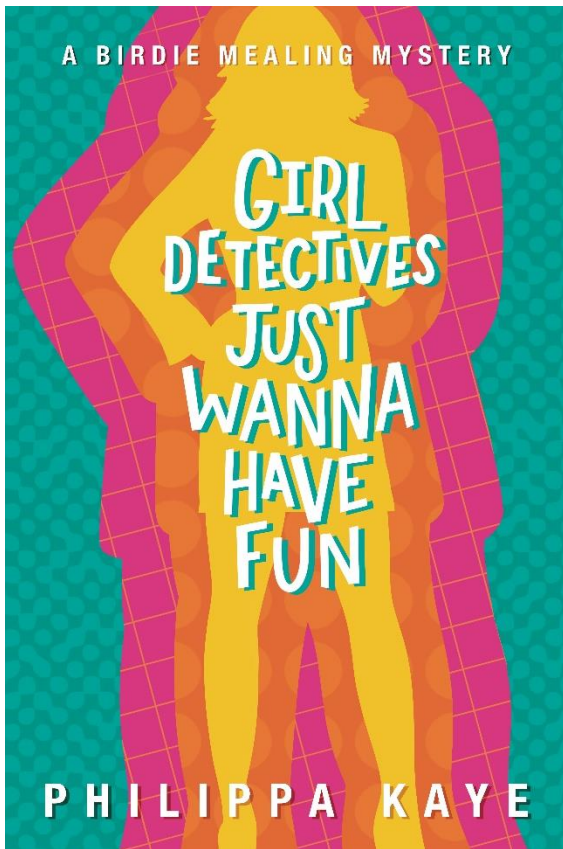


GIRL
DETECTIVES
JUST

WANNA
HAVE
FUN

A BIRDIE MEALING MYSTERY

PHILIPPA KAYE



ISBN	9781922850553
Publication Date	27 APR 2023
Genre	Crime, Romance, Mystery
Format	Paperback
Audience	General
Author Location	Central Coast, NSW

Price available on our website

IT'S 1984, HAIRSTYLES ARE BIG, SKIRTS ARE SHORT AND BIRDIE MEALING IS JUST A GIRL WHO WANTS TO HAVE FUN... UNTIL HER UNCLE GOES MISSING THAT IS.

With a little help from her friends, Birdie, a talented musician turned amateur sleuth, is determined to find her uncle – the only father figure she has ever known.

Detective Herb Lawson has other ideas though and knows that Birdie, a magnet for trouble, should leave the serious investigation to him.

Fat chance, detective!

The closer Birdie gets to solving the case of her uncle's disappearance, the more she unravels a connection to a fatal explosion on the harbour... and the underworld kingpin who was jailed for it.

The closer she gets to the guarded but gorgeous Herb, the more she questions his motives... and her own identity.

Having fun yet, Birdie?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Philippa (aka Pip) is a mother, educator and writer. She lives on the Central Coast with her lovely husband and three – often lovely – children. She has experience teaching in primary, secondary and tertiary settings and currently teaches secondary English and lectures at the University of Newcastle. Her great aunty was an Olympian, her dad invented Pavlova Magic and in her spare time she paints pictures on the wall. Her first published work, *Jack's Bike*, featured in the Orbit April 2022 edition of The School Magazine. *Girl Detectives Just Wanna Have Fun* is Pip's first novel.

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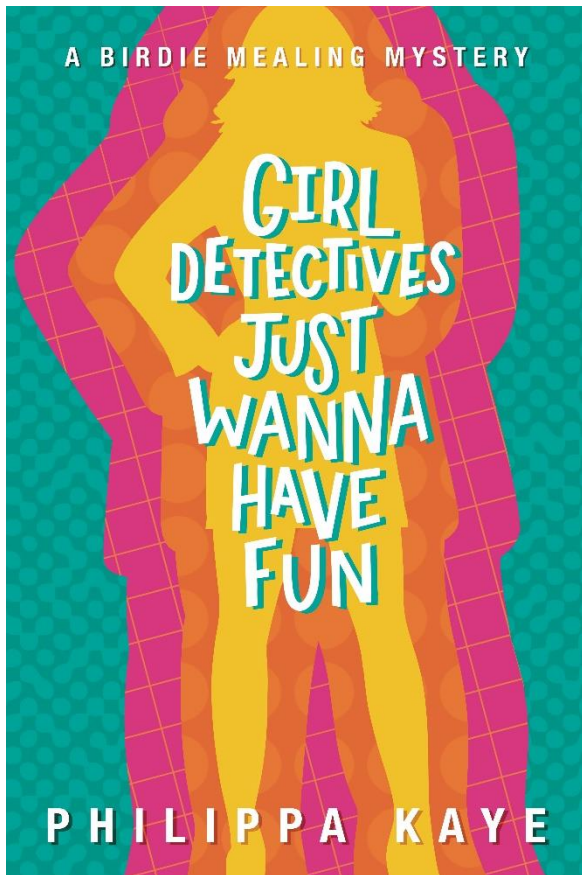
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

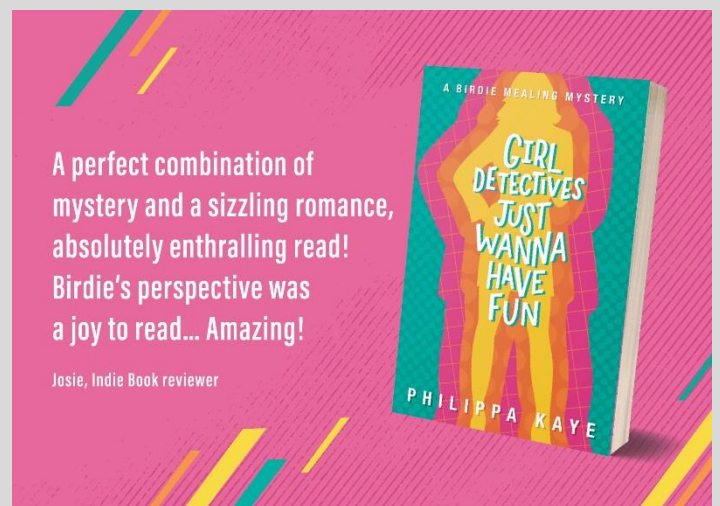
WHAT DREW YOU TO WRITING 'GIRL DETECTIVES JUST WANNA HAVE FUN' AND TO THE CHARACTERS WITHIN?

Believe it or not... covid! Everything at the time in the world around me, when I initially thought about writing Birdie, was dire. I was losing myself in books, as so many others were, but a lot of the ones I read were exhausting and heart wrenching. I wanted something lighter, so I wrote it.

I set it in a time when there was no covid, no social media, when the prime minister seemed to have the people's best interests at heart, etc. The eighties was when I grew up. I thought it would be fun to revisit, to write with subject matter I'd lived. I did give Birdie a bit more independence and attitude than I think us girls had in the eighties though.

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE TITLE FOR YOUR BOOK?

It's influenced by the title of the eighties song by Cyndi Lauper. The protagonist, Birdie Mealing, is an eighties girl. Her mother was a single mum and so the two of them have had to be strong, independent women. Birdie has decided that she wants to travel and enjoy life and not get tied down as her mother did. She wants to 'have fun', but she's also a bit of an amateur sleuth while in search of her uncle so I added the 'detectives' part for that.



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