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ZIVA'S LOVE OF COFFEE IS DOUBLE-EDGED.

Throughout her life, she gives her talent to those desperate for a glimpse into destiny's promise. Predicting the future with chilling accuracy, she understands the cost and has sworn never to divine her own truth.

Having fled the economic aftershocks of the Balkan war, she struggles adjusting to her new life and clings to the remnants of her past, until she meets Isaac.

In the midst of a biting Melbourne winter, the paths of Ziva, Simon, Isaac, Michel, and Danielle cross in unexpected places, often over a cup of their favourite coffee.

Each of them is looking for meaning, while navigating complex emotions about their past, present and future...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Edward Vukovic is a Melbourne-based writer and novelist. He currently works as a communications specialist and copywriter and has had work published across numerous publications. When he's not writing about his poor parenting skills or fantasy football or the Eurovision Song Contest, you'll most likely find him treading on Lego or shouting at the television, convinced the players on-screen will respond to his misunderstood genius.

Edward is married to his wonderful and patient wife Vesna and is a proud father to his amazingly talented son Oliver.

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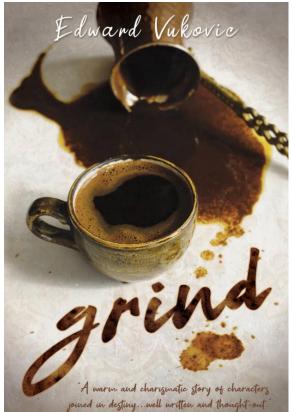
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE 'GRIND'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

After a period of many years dabbling with short stories that gradually grew longer and longer, I felt it was time to try writing an actual book. I had recently met my now wife and her family and was taken by my mother-in-law's ability to 'divine the future' by reading the grinds in a Turkish coffee. She read my grounds, for the only time I should add, and I was unnerved by her accuracy. Over days and weeks, we talked at length about her coffee reading, her past, her family etc and I started writing. She was and still is a remarkable woman and her story inspired me to tell a tale of Ziva, the migrant with a divine gift.

Of course, I couldn't simply tell her tale alone, so I spent many hours thinking, chatting to people and drinking coffee and it dawned on me that coffee was so central to so many Melbournian's lives. It was a magical elixir that bound us together and was a conduit for interconnectedness. This and my mother-in-law's ground-breaking gift (see what I did there), were a perfect match and formed the backbone of my tale.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE BOOK AND ALSO THESE CHARACTERS WITHIN?

I was gripped by my mother-in-law's amazing capacity to divine 'truth' by reading murky coffee residue. That, the role coffee plays in our culture and her story as an immigrant to this country.

> "A warm and charismatic story of characters joined in destiny...well written and thought-out."

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