

Blue Wren

by BRON BATEMAN

ABOUT THE BOOK

Blue Wren is a beautiful and moving body of work from poet Bron Bateman. Using Frida Kahlo as her inspiration, she has crafted a collection of poems that builds on the themes from *Of Memory and Furniture* of healing and reclaiming her past. In her new book, Bron experiments with different forms, such as magical realism, prose poetry and free verse, with many poems addressed to her lover, her sister, her children and the strong influence that her mother had on her life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bron Bateman is a poet, academic and mother of nine. She is a researcher in Crip and Disability Studies at the University of Newcastle and her research interests include Crip and Disability Studies, Queer and Gender Theory, cultural studies, creative writing, Feminisms, and the body. She has had her work published in collections and journals in Australia, the UK and the US.



KEY POINTS

- Her latest collection of poetry, *Of Memory and Furniture*, was published in 2020 and was Highly Commended in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards (2021).
- Bron was shortlisted for the Tom Collins Poetry Prize for her poem 'The Boys Who Dream of Winter' in 2022.
- She was awarded the Bobbie Cullen Memorial Prize for Creative Writing in 2004, and in 2017 she won Columbia University's Winter Contest for Poetry for her poem 'The Lemon Picker'.
- *Blue Wren* is structured around poems about paintings by the artist Frida Kahlo: 'The Girl of My Eyes' — erotic and romantic love poems, to a female lover from her female lover; 'The Two Fridas' — poems about the relationships between a mother and her children; 'Self-Portrait With Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird' — a series of autobiographical chronological poems; and 'The Broken Column' — poems on grief, loss, and parental inheritance in the midst of a serious health crisis

PRAISE FOR THE POET

'Erotic feminist sensitive and skilled Bateman is a poet who wants and deserves to be widely read.' *Saturday Age*



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