

SECOND FLEET BABY

by **NADIA RHOOK**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Second Fleet Baby examines birth and motherhood, with a consciousness that spans centuries. This poetry draws on the energies of 18th Century English convict women, including Rhook's own ancestors, to open raw questions of belonging. How might a settler reconcile the violence bound up with their role populating stolen land with the love and euphoria that can flow from parenthood? Intergenerational ties are traced through the soft weapons of the body, connecting the intimacies of nation-making with the politics of reproduction in lavishly personal ways. Through stories of childhood, of fertility, and of nurturing new life during a pandemic, the patriarchal weight of history is cast off and origins are pulled 'from the seabed to the surface'.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nadia Rhook is a non-Indigenous historian and poet, born in Naarm/Melbourne and currently living in Boorloo/Perth. She has a PhD in History from La Trobe University and lectures in History and Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia. Her poetry appears in various journals and anthologies including *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Peril Magazine*, *Mascara Literary Review*, *Westerly*, *The Enchanting Verses Literary Review*, *Authora Australis*, *Twice Not Shy: One Hundred Short Short Stories* (Night Parrot Press) and *What We Carry: Poetry on Childbearing* (Recent Work Press). *Second Fleet Baby* is her second poetry collection.



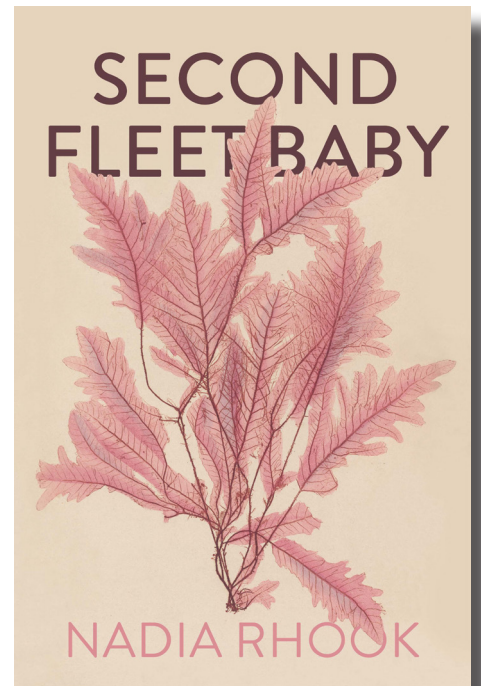
KEY POINTS

- Nadia is an experienced university lecturer who has performed her poetry across Melbourne and Perth including events such as Spoken Word Perth, Dirty Mouth, Perth Poetry Club, Voicebox, Girls on Key and Passionate Tongues Poetry.
- Nadia's first collection, *boots*, was released by UWA Publishing in 2020.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

'Extraordinary craftswomanship, tender yet piercing stories of nation-building and child bearing, intricately woven together by the hands of an astute and fearless poet.' Elfie Shiosaki

'In these wide-ranging, self-questioning, imaginative poems, Rhook tracks how colonisation works against and through the bodies of women. The poems are shaped by a rare combination of judgement and compassion.' Lisa Gorton



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CONTACT: Claire Miller
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER

M +61 (0)419 837 841

T +61 (0)8 9430 6331

E cmiller@fremantlepress.com.au

S @FremantlePress



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