

# THE PLAYERS

by **DEBORAH PIKE**

‘Heartwarming and captivating ... enticing to the last page.’  
*Bem Le Hunte*

‘Funny and wise. A vivid and all too human cast of dreamers,  
exquisitely tuned to the bittersweet dramas of life.’ *Melinda Harvey*

‘A beautiful, ambitious and moving debut. I scoffed it.’ *Tim Minchin*

## ABOUT THE BOOK

One hot summer, a group of university students gathers in an orchard to rehearse a play. Veronika is born for a life on the stage while Felix seizes his last chance for creative freedom. Sebastian woos Veronika, and Cassie longs for Sebastian. Josh and Gloria each carry a secret they are unable to share.

Passion, rivalry and enduring connections will bind the Players across years and continents, long after the final curtain falls and they leave university behind. From Perth to Paris, Cambridge, London, Berlin and Dili the friends search for meaning in their careers and friendship, discover love and endure heartbreak.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Deborah Pike grew up in Western Australia and now lives in Sydney where she lectures in English Literature at the University of Notre Dame. Deborah is the author of *The Subversive Art of Zelda Fitzgerald*, which was shortlisted for the AUHE award in literary criticism.



## MEDIA NOTES

- This debut novel is a multifaceted story which invites readers to reflect on the complex relationships and search for meaning each character embarks upon. It takes us into the lives of a group of university students as they fall in and out of friendship and love. In this dramatic coming-of-age story, bonds formed during an intense summer of rehearsals will be tested across decades.
- Deborah has an Honours degree in English from the University of Western Australia and a PhD from the University of Sydney.
- Deborah has travelled widely and lived in Paris for several years where she held positions at Shakespeare & Company Bookstore, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the University of Paris VII and at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po).



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