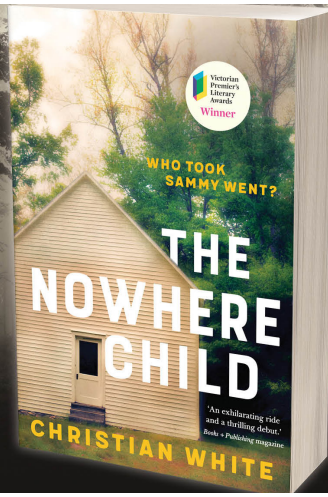


WHO TOOK SAMMY WENT?

#THENOWHERECHILD



THE THRILLER OF THE YEAR

ABOUT THE AUTHOR CHRISTIAN WHITE

Christian White is an Australian author and screenwriter whose projects include feature film *Relic*. *The Nowhere Child* was his first book and one of Australia's bestselling debut novels ever. An early draft of this novel won the 2017 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript.

Clickbait, a television series Christian co-created with Tony Ayres (*The Slap*), starring Adrian Grenier (*Entourage*), was released by Netflix in August 2021 and went straight to #1 in 41 countries. Christian's keenly awaited second book, *The Wife and the Widow*, was published by Affirm Press in 2019 and became an instant bestseller.

The setting of his third novel *Wild Place* is modelled on the area of the Mornington Peninsular where he grew up. Today he lives nearby in Balnarring, Victoria.

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. Stuart tells Kim about Decay theory, which suggests that even though she can't remember her life as Sammy Went, there may still be a memory hidden in her mind. Have you ever seen the effect of Decay theory on any of your own memories?
2. Before the final big reveal, who else did you think might have taken Sammy Went?
3. *The Nowhere Child* includes multiple perspectives. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story through several different voices?
4. Though she was stolen from her birth family, Kim lived a safe and happy life with the Leamys. Do you think the decision to take her was morally right or wrong?
5. Even though Kim can't remember her life in Manson, do you think those early experiences still shaped who she became as an adult? If so, how?
6. Christian White's characters are all complex, each showing both good and evil in the way they treat one another. Did you find yourself changing your mind about any of the characters as you read this book?
7. Though we understand Dean's reasons for secrecy, Carol Leamy's motivations are less clear. Why do you think she agreed not to tell Kim the truth about her past?
8. When Kim visits Molly she finds her 'full of darkness', and questions whether it was Sammy's disappearance that put that darkness there. To what extent do you believe the loss of her child made Molly this way?
9. Kim talks about feeling as though she's been dropped between two islands – 'you have to swim towards something'. In this metaphor, what do you think the islands represent, and which island does she choose?
10. Kim talks about using her camera to 'tame' her environment as she searches for something familiar in Manson. What do you think is the relationship between photography and memory in *The Nowhere Child*?