

The HISTORY of MISCHIEF

by REBECCA HIGGIE

ABOUT THE BOOK

Following the death of their parents, Jessie and her older sister Kay move to their grandmother's abandoned house. One night they discover *The History of Mischief* hidden beneath the floor: it is like no book they have ever seen.

From Ancient Greece to war-torn China, from the Ethiopian Empire to Victorian England, the pages reveal a world of mischief and mystery, adventure and adversity – stolen bones and fiery dragons, feisty philosophers and tempestuous tyrants, shape-shifting trees and scorched scrolls.

But not everything is as it seems, in the book or in her life, and Jessie is determined to find the truth. *The History* has a history of its own. Unravelling its secrets might be the biggest mischief of all.

The History of Mischief is about the many things we do to try to escape grief, and the stories we tell in order to protect ourselves and those we love.

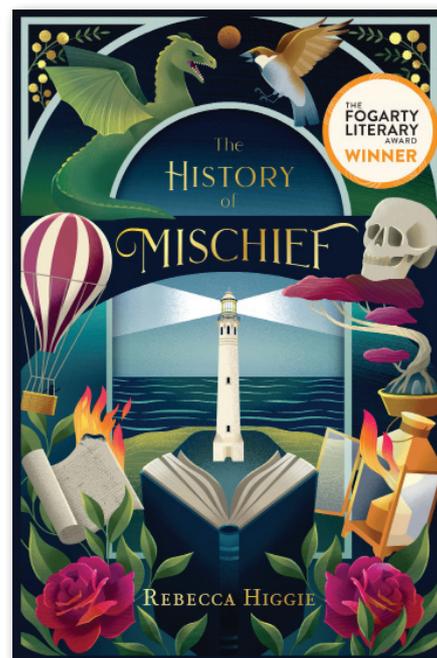
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rebecca is a writer from Perth. She fosters childhood literacy as the Library Officer at Guildford Primary, WA's oldest public school. Formerly an academic at Curtin University and Brunel University London, she has published research on satire, politics and play. Her creative works have appeared in publications such as *Westerly*, *Stories of Perth* and *Australian Love Poems*.



KEY NOTES

- *The History of Mischief* is an adventure into the past as Jessie reads her way through tales of Greece, Egypt, China, Poland, Ethiopia, England and Australia, from 336 BC to today. The book took twelve years of research.
- The novel is at once a mystery story, an historical adventure and an exploration into the redemptive power of releasing secrets.
- Much like Philip Pullman's latest series, *The History of Mischief* is accomplished literary fantasy that will work for young adults aged 12 and over as well as for adults.
- Higgie won the inaugural Fogarty Literary Award for writers aged 18 to 35 for this book.
- Higgie was made a Doctor of Philosophy (Communications and Cultural Studies) by Curtin University and won an Endeavour Postdoctoral Fellowship to undertake research at Brunel University.
- Higgie has worked as a library officer in the stock and stack at the State Library of Western Australia, which inspired the character of Kay and settings for the book.
- Higgie is the 2020 Fremantle Press Podcast host, with monthly interviews throughout 2020.



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