



Lyrebird Hill

Anna Romer

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From the bestselling author of *Thornwood House*

When all that you know comes crashing down, do you run? Or face the truth?

Ruby Cardel has the semblance of a normal life – a loving boyfriend, a fulfilling career – but in one terrible moment, her life unravels. The discovery that the death of her sister, Jamie, was not an accident makes her question all she’s known about herself and her past.

Traveling back home to Lyrebird Hill, Ruby begins to remember the year that has been forever blocked in her memory . . . Snatches of her childhood with beautiful Jamie, and Ruby’s only friendship with the boy from the next property, a troubled foster kid.

Then Ruby uncovers a cache of ancient letters from a long-lost relative, Brenna Magavin, written from her cell in a Tasmanian gaol where she is imprisoned for murder. As she reads, Ruby discovers that her family line is littered with tragedy and violence.

Slowly, the gaps in Ruby’s memory come to her. And as she pieces together the shards of truth, what she finally discovers will shock her to the core – about what happened to Jamie that fateful day, and how she died.

A thrilling tale about family secrets and trusting yourself...

Lyrebird Hill Details

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From Reader Review Lyrebird Hill for online ebook

Sarah Ruthven says

I will buy any novel this author writes. Lyrebird Hill is Anna Romer's second novel, and just like her debut Thornwood House, it keeps you on the edge of your seat. You can't put it down, but at the same time you don't want it to end!

Another wonderful mystery full of unexpected twists. You'll be thinking about this story long after you've finished.

The dual narrative is so well done. The story lines are so captivating, I just couldn't decide which was my favourite timeline, flipping from modern day NSW to 1890's Tasmania. I loved them both as much as the other!

Another beautifully crafted story set in Australia by an exceptionally talented Australian writer.

Lena Papanikolaou says

Αν και γραμμ?νο στο πρ?το πρ?σωπο (?χω π?ντα ?να θεματ?κι με αυτ?) καταφ?ρνει να αιχμαλωτ?σει τον αναγν?στη απ? την πρ?τη του σελ?δα. Και οι δ?ο ιστορ?ες μαγευτικ?ς γεμ?τες μυστικ? και ανατροπ?ς που ?ρχονται σιγ? σιγ? στο φως ?σο προχωρ?ς στην αν?γνωση του βιβλ?ου. Τ?ποτε δεν ε?ναι αυτ? που φα?νεται το μυστ?ριο η αγων?α χτυπ?ει κ?κκινο!! Αν και καθ?λου γνωστ? θα ?λεγα απ? τα καλ?τερα του ε?δους. Τελε?ως κινηματογραφικ? με λιτ?ς υπ?ροχες περιγραφ?ς. Καταστ?σεις και χαρακτ?ρες τ?σο ζωντανο? σε μ?α απρ?βλεπτη και συναπαρστικ? πλοκ? που κ?βει την αν?σα!!

Brenda says

Living in a little cottage in the coastal town of Sawtell and working in nearby Coffs Harbour was like a dream come true to Ruby Cardel. She owned the *Busy Bookworm*, a bookshop where she sold rare and second-hand books alongside the newer releases and despite the advent of the digital age, her shop was doing well. She also had her boyfriend Rob, whom she'd been seeing for the past three years and was very happy with – though the years ago tragedy of her sister Jamie's death was never far from her thoughts, she was reasonably content with life.

But the day Rob and Ruby went to Armidale to attend an art exhibition for Ruby's mother was to be a major turning point in her life. Ruby had lost a year of memories from when her sister Jamie had died at *Lyrebird Hill*, and though her mother had told her it was deemed an accident Ruby was unable to recall the events of that terrible day; she bore a deep guilt at not being able to bring answers to them all. Would the reason for the accident that had taken her beloved sister ever be clear to her?

In 1898 Brenna Magavin was living in *Lyrebird Hill* with her brother Owen, Aunt Ivy and her father Fa Fa. During the days she would escape to the bottom of the property where an aboriginal family lived – she was friends with them all, and loved to learn about the plants and their medicinal properties. She also loved to sketch those delicate leaves; her work was intricate and beautiful. But the peace of those days was a distant memory for Brenna when she found herself travelling to Tasmania in the company of a man who was many

years her senior....

When Ruby discovered a long hidden box filled with letters from Brenna, she realized their lives were entwined – for tragedy had found a way of continuing down through the years; the slight snatches of memory which were coming to Ruby were scaring her; was she ready to find out the truth?

Lyrebird Hill is a breathtaking novel, a stunningly beautiful tale with tragic secrets which were shattered like glass. Aussie author Anna Romer paints the most amazing word pictures – the blending of the two stories told by both Brenna from 1898 and Ruby in 2013 was done with ease. I found myself holding my breath and on the edge of my seat at times; the mystery and intrigue is gripping and intense. I absolutely loved this book and have no hesitation in recommending it highly.

With thanks to Simon and Schuster, and NetGalley for my copy to read and review.

??Jülie ? says

Lyrebird Hill by Anna Romer

In a nutshell...Brilliant!

What a great read this was! I was held captivated from the first page to the last and wanted to savour each as the story unfolded with such gradual, yet compelling ease...this book has it all.

Anna Romer has worked magic with her brilliant way of putting together a very complex story in a smooth flowing and uncomplicated manner.

The story of a modern day family struggling to come to terms with the tragic events of its own traumatic past and how their story crosses the borders of time to show historical parallels of those events in both dimensions of time and place. Do we carry certain traits of previous generations across time?

It is told from two different time frames...historical 1890's and modern 2013...each relevant to the other, and is imbued with loads of intrigue and mystery, romance, family history, deception and lies.

The settings are the beautifully portrayed landscapes of Sawtell on the coast of Northern New South Wales, Australia and the cold but stunning countryside of Tasmania, Australia.

Sometimes where different time frames are involved in a story it can cause an [often] irritating disruption to the flow as it jumps between era's or zones...Not so with this story, the two time frames worked together in perfect unison and never once felt distracting or like an interruption. In fact I came to look forward to each new shift as, each time the story made the "subtle shift" to the other time zone, it injected another crucial piece of a puzzle so seamlessly, as if slowly peeling back the layers and gradually exposing the bigger story...towards the ultimate complete picture.

So you keep getting those "aha" or "oh dear" moments that keep you wanting more.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this engrossing book and I look forward to recommending it to friends and fellow book lovers. It is a worthy addition to any bookshelf.

Anna Romer is an author I will definitely keep my eye on. 5★s

Many thanks to NetGalley and Simon and Schuster Australia for my copy to read and review.

Carol - Reading Writing and Riesling says

My View:

Forbidden love, family secrets, murder, mystery... these themes and more are present and repeated in the dual time frames – brilliant.

Ms Romer writes with a beautiful, sweet and seductive voice. This narrative is a multi-faceted story of love, revenge, family secrets and murder that offers the reader two parallel stories that are slowly revealed in alternating chapters. The writing is lush and the settings leap out from the page in three dimensional glory. You can hear the bush come alive, you can see the vibrant colours of the flora and fauna, you will smell the smoke of the camp fires and you too will wonder if you are catching glimpses of movement, shadows moving in the corner of your mind's eye...this is mesmerising, evocative reading.

Along with ability of being able to create wonderful settings, Ms Romer has gifted the reader two powerful female protagonists, Brenna, who lived in the late 1800's and Ruby who lives in today's modern world. You will grow to love these characters and many others including The Wolf (did I mention Ms Romer weaves a thread of fairy tales into her stories - in this one we catch glimpses of Beauty and the Beast or rather a Wolf in this reincarnation of the tale). There is so much to enjoy in this book it begs reading a second time to absorb more of the atmosphere and subtle details.

This is a wonderful mesmerising read on par with her earlier debut novel Thornwood House – another stunning mystery that will engage all your senses with its rich and sumptuous prose.

PS

I loved that we just happened to be staying in the area that this book is sited - what a remarkable coincidence.

Ioanna Xristodoyloy says

ενα εξαιρετικο βιβλιο...εχει μυρωδια απο βροχη και σαπια φυλλα η ιστορια μας...δεκαδες μικρα κοματια παζλ απο παρεθλον που συνθετουν την ιστορια σταδιακα χωρις να κανει ουτε λεπτο κοιλια...εχει παντα μια ανατροπη να σου δωσει ,παντα μια πληροφορια για να σε παει παρακατω...μου αρεσε πραγματικα πολυ

Jenn J McLeod says

I was eager to read Anna Romer's second book. Her first one, Thornwood House, was such a great story and so beautifully told. So often I can find an author's second novel is not as good, or just another of the same. But I am pleased to say Lyrebird Hill is delightfully different, still beautifully written and I'd say even better in some respects. I think I loved the detailed snapshots of life in early Australia. Anna has such a way with words and her storytelling shines in this generational novel about the tragic, unsolved death of a sister in the present day, and a touching account of a young woman living in country NSW in the 1800's, who pays a price to preserve the family home. In her first novel I was transported to the lush and fragrant surrounds of Thornwood House and Lyrebird Hill is a hauntingly beautiful tale and the perfect balance of contemporary

and historical. My kind of perfect.

Alice Kellen says

4,5. Me ha sorprendido mucho. Cada capítulo está narrado por una protagonista, en dos épocas distintas, y poco a poco las historias de ambas se entrelazan y las piezas van encajando hasta dar sentido a una trama muy bien elaborada. En "Cartas desde Tasmania" hay amor, intriga, secretos familiares, traiciones, drama... pero todo bien llevado, acorde al desarrollo y no en plan "meter por meter". Además, Anna Romer tiene una forma de escribir muy bonita y detallada, y domina el ritmo a la perfección, ¡hacía tiempo que un libro no me enganchara tanto! Eso sí, es cierto que lo más destacable de la novela no es la parte romántica, algo lógico al tener en cuenta todos los ingredientes que contiene la historia (no daba tiempo para mucho más).

Sharon says

Ruby Cardel enjoyed living near Coffs Harbour and she especially enjoyed working in her own bookshop. The shop stocked a variety of books from new releases to second-hand books. Her relationship with her boyfriend, Rob had been going well for the last three years, but lately Ruby had felt unsettled. In fact ever since her sister, Jamie passed away years ago, Ruby hasn't felt right. Jamie's death was an accident, but for some reason Ruby has lost all memory from that year.

Would going back to Lyrebird Hill where her sister died jog Ruby's memory of that tragic day or would her death still remain a mystery to Ruby?

Lyrebird Hill is an incredible story about family secrets, romance, mystery and murder. A truly wonderful and captivating tale set in New South Wales Australia and Tasmania. I have no hesitation in HIGHLY recommending this book to anyone who enjoys a great read.

Pepa says

4 y si el peso romántico hubiera sido mayor, le hubiera dado el 5

Qué forma de engancharme.

Supongo que se podría clasificar más como una novela sentimental porque sí, drama tiene un rato.

En la novela encontraremos tres planos temporales, una historia acontecida hace mas de 100 años, otra en el pasado hace unos veinte años y otra que transcurre en el presente. Pero, al mismo también encontraremos, un par de misterios que resolver.

La autora entremezcla muy bien todas las historias desvelando poco a poco la importancia de los hechos y su influencia en el presente.

La historia del pasado es dura y real. Toca temas muy delicados como el racismo y la crueldad del hombre hacia sus semejantes.

La historia actual es menos dura, pero es la que lleva la voz cantante en la trama del suspense, pero a que también te atrapa lo acontecido en el pasado.

Muy buenas las alusiones al lobo feroz.

Buenos climax y muy buena ambientació. Descripciones detalladas que te transportan a las tierras áridas australianas, en ciertos momentos algo previsible pero sin la autora es capaz de mantenerte atrapada en sus páginas, hasta el punto que me lo he leído en muy poco tiempo

Una novela bien escrita, con traiciones familiares y amores imposibles.

Reseña completa: <http://masromance.blogspot.com.es/201...>

Dale Harcombe says

The death of her sister Jamie when she was a child leaves Ruby with questions about what really happened, since her memory has blanked it out. It has also soured Ruby's relationship with her mother. Then her relationship with her boyfriend Rob turns out to be not all Ruby hoped, despite his words of love that eventually come after three years together. Along with Ruby's story set in 2013 is the story of Brenna, set in 1898. The connection between them is Lyrebird Hill, Ruby's childhood home to which she returns seeking answers to her questions about Jamie's death. This novel had all the ingredients of a good mystery, exploration of relationships and the impact of a loss on life.

I was so looking forward to reading this book and started it eagerly. And yet it seems anticipation can sometimes can be a bad thing. Whether it was me being tired at present or the constant flipping around from one story to another and from Ruby's current situation to her childhood with Jamie, I found it hard to settle. I'm aware a lot of the people loved this book but for me, there were things that pulled me out of the story. My attention wandered and at times it felt overwritten.

' I tried to unlock my gaze from his, but something in those dark green depths held me captive. Was he letting me glimpse behind the mask of his face, to the true nature that dwelled beneath? And was he, in turn, seeing behind mine? I felt naked, wide open, exposed; but rather than disturb me as it should have, that brief recognition between us sent spear of fierce joy into the core of my soul. My pulse flew, crashing so violently through my veins that surely it was loud enough to wake Adele.'

Another example from later in the book, 'inexplicably I began to shake. It started in the vicinity of my diaphragm, subtle at first, as if I'd grown a second, tinier heart right in the middle of my body and it was beating out of time with my real heart. The little heart sped up, began to race. And then, like ripples speeding outward from the centre of the lake, the tremors took hold.' There were other examples that struck me. Maybe because I was not fully engrossed in the novel and the characters I noticed them more than I would have if I had been fully engaged.

The ending did have me turning pages faster but even there I felt the plot was a bit unbelievable. Could be, I just wasn't in the right frame of mind for this one, so better to read it and judge for yourself.

Mack says

This was an enthralling tale of Ruby Cardel and the death of her sister during their childhood. Ruby has blocked the truth about what really happened on the day her sister, Jamie was killed. As the story unravels Ruby finds out that her family history evolves parallel to the story and it is a reminder how as a nation we want to ensure that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past regarding Aboriginal history.

Irene says

3,5. Una historia entretenida y bien contada desde los paisajes de Tasmania. Secretos familiares y culpas no expiadas... lo tiene todo, aun así esperaba un poco más..., Ruby es un personaje que de más de sí....

Buen comienzo con la autora.

Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Ορισμ?να βιβλ?α καταφ?ρνουν να σε κερδ?σουν με την απλ?τητα και την αμεσ?τητα του λ?γου τους, αποδεικν?οντας περ?τρανα πως δεν χρει?ζεται να φλυαρε?ς, παρ? μον?χα να στοχε?εις στο ν' αποτυπ?σεις την αλ?θεια των πραγμ?των και των ανθρ?πων. ?να τ?τοιο βιβλ?ο ε?ναι και "Τα φτερ? της μν?μης", που μας ταξιδε?ουν στην Αυστραλ?α, στο Lyrebird Hill της Τασμαν?ας του 1898, και στη Ν?α Ν?τια Ουαλ?α του 2013, με την αφ?γηση δ?ο ιστορι?ν, που παρ? που της χωρ?ζει περισσότερος απ? ?νας αι?νας, συνδ?ονται με τρ?πο μαγικ? που καθηλ?νει απ? την πρ?τη μ?χρι και την τελευτα?α σελ?δα, ξεδιπλ?νοντας αλ?θειες, ζω?ς και τις μο?ρες αυτ?ν, ?τσι ?στε να χαραχθo?ν για π?ντα στην καρδι? και στο μυαλ? μας. Ναι, η Anna Romer μας προσφ?ρει απλ?χερα την αλ?θεια της και μ?σα απ? αυτ?ν, μας χαρ?ζει ?να μοναδικ? ταξ?δι.

Στο παρ?ν, Ρο?μπι ζει μια καθ?λα φυσιολογικ? ζω?, ?ντας ιδιοκτ?τρια του βιβλιοπωλε?ου που κληρον?μησε απ? τη μητ?ρα της. Το μοναδικ? μελαν? σημε?ο, ε?ναι τα κεν? μν?μης που ?χει μετ? το μετατραυματικ? σοκ που της προκ?λεσε πολλ? χρ?νια πριν ο θ?νατος της αδερφ?ς της, και που ?σο σκληρ? κι αν προσπαθε? να θυμηθε? τι ακριβ?ς συν?βη εκε?νη την ημ?ρα, δεν μπορε?. Η απιστ?α του συντρ?φου της θα ?ρθει να ταρ?ξει τα νερ? της ?ρεμης ζω?ς της και θα την οδηγ?σει στην απ?φαση να βρει καταφ?γιο στο σπ?τι των παιδικ?ν της χρ?νων, ?που ψ?χνοντας να βρει τον εαυτ? της, προσπαθε? να θυμηθε? ?σα ?χουν σβηστε? απ? τη μν?μη της. Στο παρελθo?ν, η Μπρ?να, ξεπουλι?ται απ? τον πατ?ρα της σε ?ναν ?ντρα που ποτ? της δεν αγ?πησε, προκειμ?νου να σ?σει την οικογ?νει? της απ? την οικονομικ? καταστροφ?. Στο Lyrebird Hill, η ζω? της Μπρ?να κ?θε ?λλο παρ? ιδανικ? ε?ναι, και ?ταν ο ?ρωτας θα της χτυπ?σει την π?ρτα, η ζω? της θα βρεθε? σε μια τροχι? που ο?τε καν ε?χε φανταστε?.

Η Anna Romer επιλ?γει την πρωτοπρ?σωπη παρ?λληλη αφ?γηση, προκειμ?νου να εξιστορ?σει τις ζω?ς δ?ο γυναικ?ν που αν και φαντ?ζουν ?σχετες μεταξ? τους, κ?που συνδ?ονται. Τι κι αν η αφ?γηση γ?νεται σε διαφορετικο?ς τ?πους και χρ?νους, ?ρχεται η ?ρα που θα συναντηθo?ν και η κρυφ? αλ?θεια τους ?ρχεται στο φως, οδηγ?ντας μας σε μονοπ?τια διαφορετικ? απ? αυτ? που ε?χαμε φανταστε? αρχικ?, καθ?ς κατευθυν?μαστε προς την κορ?φωση του εκ?στοτε δρ?ματος που φυλ?σσει καλ? τα δικ? του μυστικ?. Και με κ?θε β?μα μας στη διαδρομ? αυτ?, νι?θουμε το στομ?χι μας να σφ?γγεται ?λο και πιο πολ?, παρασυρ?μαστε στη δ?νη των αποκαλ?ψεων ?λο και περισσότερο, μ?χρι που δεν μπορο?με να κ?νουμε τ?ποτα ?λλο απ? το να συνεχ?ζουμε να διαβ?ζουμε, προσδοκ?ντας απελπισμ?να τη λ?τρωση του τ?λους.

Με γλ?σσα απλ? και κατανοητ?, με τρυφερ?τητα και βαθι? ευαισθησ?α, η συγγραφ?ας χτ?ζει μοναδικ? ψυχογραφ?ματα, αποτυπ?νοντ?ς τα στο χαρτ? με τρ?πο αληθιν? και ειλικριν? που ε?ναι αδ?νατον να μην σε συγκιν?σει. Το παρ?δοξο δε, ε?ναι πως παρ? την απλ?τητα της γραφ?ς της, ο τρ?πος με τον οπο?ο μας μεταφ?ρει τις εικ?νες των τοπ?ων της μαγευτικ?ς Αυστραλ?ας, ε?ναι μοναδικ?ς. Ομορφι? και γοητε?α που αποτυπ?νονται με ?ναν λυρισμ? σχεδ?ν ποιητικ?, και που την

Ήδια στιγμή, καταφέρνουν να φέρουν χρώματα και σχήματα στα μέτρα μας, μυρωδιές και αρώματα που αγγίζουν τα μέτρα της ψυχής μας. Η Romer δεν τοποθετεί απλώς την ιστορία της στην Αυστραλία, αλλά μας την συστήνει, γνωρίζοντάς μας όλα εκείνα τα στοιχεία που κάνουν αυτή τη χώρα μοναδική και ιδιαίτερη, και που ίσως της δεν υπάρχει άλλη.

Ήραγε, οι μέτρα που φανταζόμαστε να χάνονται στο πέρασμα των χρόνων, ξεθωριάζουν επειδή είναι φυσικά επόμενο, ή υποσυνείδητα εμείς οι ίδιοι αποφασίζουμε τι θα σφάλσουμε στα πιο απρόκρυφα συρτήρια του μυαλού μας; Μεγαλώνουμε και ξεχνάμε, ή το κάνουμε επειδή δεν αντχουμε να θυμάμαστε; Η συγγραφέας χειρίζεται με εξαιρετική ευφυή τρόπο την ιστορία της, καθηλώνοντας και κβοντάς μας την ανήσα καθής ξετυλίγει το κουβήρι μιας πραγματικότητας που κρβει τρομακτικές αλήθειες στην καρδί της. Με ευαισθησία, ταξιδιήρική -ήσως και κήπως μελαγχολική- διήθεση, μας ταξιδεύει στο χρόνο και στο χώρο, εκπλήσσουντάς μας με την δήναμη ενής μυθιστορήματος που εκτάς απή την αγήπη και τον ήρωα, δεν διστάζει να θήξει και ήλλα ζητήματα ήπως ο ρατσισμός -κοινωνικός ή μη-, αλλά και την ισχή που ήχει η αλήθεια κήντρα στο ψήμα, που ήταν αυτή αποκαλύφθε, μπορεί να μας οδηγήσει στις καλύτερες ή και στις χειρότερες αποφήσεις.

Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says

As in Romer's debut novel, Thornwood House, the past casts deep shadows over the present in Lyrebird Hill, a haunting story of family secrets, mystery and murder.

Ruby Cardel can't remember the events surrounding the tragic death of her sister, Jamie. She knows only what she has been told, that Jamie died in an accident when they were children, slipping and falling into the river that bordered their property, Lyrebird Hill and that Ruby was found nearby, bruised and disorientated, her memory of the past year gone. Though Ruby has built a life for herself, opening a bookstore in Coff's Harbour and is in a relationship with handsome self help guru, Rob, her sister's death continues to haunt her, and she is stunned when her mother is forced to confess that Jamie's death was no accident. Despite a persistent feeling of dread, Ruby decides it is time to uncover the truth about that fateful day and returns to Lyrebird Hill in the hope of finding the answers she seeks.

As Ruby tries to unravel the mystery of Jamie's death, a second narrative emerges telling the tale of Brenna Magavin. In 1898, nineteen year old Brenna was the carefree young mistress of Lyrebird Hill, owned by her father. When financial ruin threatened to force the sale of the property, Brenna agreed to marry a family friend, a peer of her father's, in exchange for the clearance of the debt, only to discover she made a deal with the devil. When Ruby discovers a tin full of letters written by Brenna buried at Lyrebird Hill she learns her family's history is blighted with tragedy, betrayal and murder and fears it is a legacy she has unwittingly perpetuated.

The dual narratives of Lyrebird Hill weave a captivating and complex tale as the mysteries surrounding Jamie's and Brenna's fate unravel. The atmosphere darkens as secrets are revealed and danger lurks. There is unspeakable violence, bitter regrets and shocking treachery but also a thread of redemption, of truth and even triumph.

The prose is lush and lyrical evoking both the landscape of Lyrebird Hill and the fraught emotions of Romer's characters. There are distinct modern gothic undertones to the story, with a hint of fairytale morality. I did find the pacing a little slow, more so in the contemporary timeline, but the stunning twists

presented in the conclusion of both narratives easily compensate for the small lag.

An absorbing and atmospheric tale, beautifully told, I enjoyed Lyrebird Hill and wouldn't hesitate to recommend it.
