



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Secondary students (ages 13+; years 8–11)

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Critical and Creative Thinking; Ethical Understanding

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- An intense and unputdownable thriller that will get students talking
- Written by a former police officer and paramedic whose experiences have informed the book and given the story authenticity

## THEMES

- Identity – what makes us, us?
- Environment and survival
- Family and genetics
- Secrets and deceit
- Love and hate
- Rural Australia
- Friendship and redemption
- Grief, loss and revenge – coping with the loss of a loved one and finding closure
- Actions, causality and consequences
- Accidents and survivor's guilt
- Crime and police investigations
- Witness protection programs

## PREPARED BY

Fleur Ferris and Penguin Random House Australia

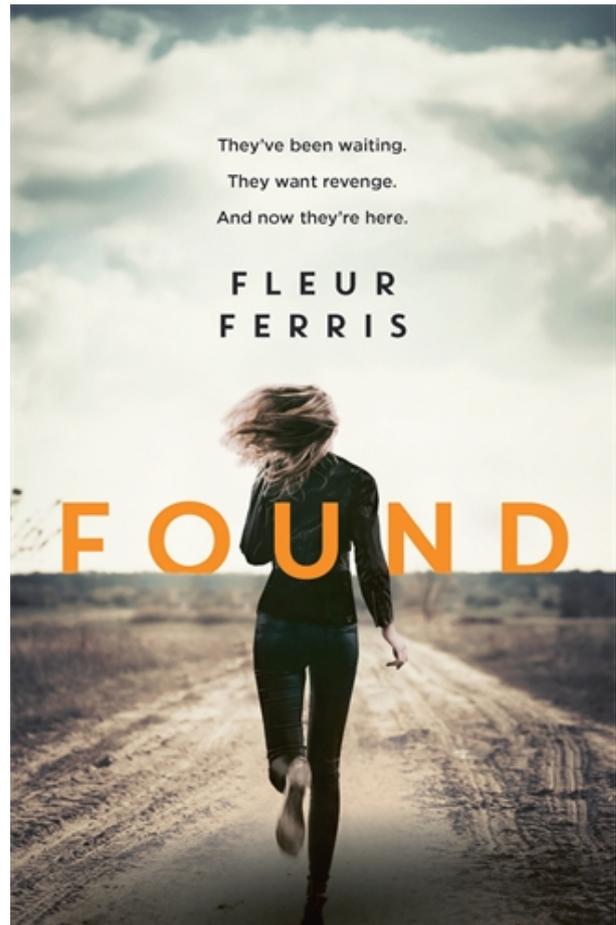
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

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## Found Fleur Ferris

## PLOT SUMMARY

*They've been waiting. They want revenge. And now they're here.*

Elizabeth Miller has always lived in Deni. In a small rural town, Beth's biggest problem is telling her protective and fiercely private father that she has a boyfriend.

But when her dad disappears before her and Jonah's eyes, Beth discovers that he's not who she thought he was. Her family's secret past has caught up with them, and someone wants her dead.

Beth has been unwittingly prepared for this moment her whole life. Will it be enough to outrun – and outsmart – her hunters?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fleur Ferris spent the first seventeen years of her life growing up on a farm in Patchewollock, north-west Victoria. She then moved twenty times in twenty years.

During this time, Fleur sometimes saw the darker side to life while working for a number of years as a police officer and a paramedic.

She now lives a more settled lifestyle on a rice farm in southern New South Wales, with her husband and three young children.

Fleur's colourful and diverse background has given her a unique insight into today's society and an endless pool of experiences to draw from. When she isn't weaving this through young adult fiction, reading or spending time with her family, you will find her with friends, talking about art, books and travel.

Fleur has also published three other thrillers for young adults, *Risk*, *Black* and *Wreck*.

Visit Fleur at [fleurferris.com](http://fleurferris.com).

## AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Fleur says:

Many years ago, when I was working in the police force, I took a statement from a witness who soon after received threats from the accused. The witness, who had a young baby, entered the witness protection program. I had no further involvement with this case and do not know the outcome or the whereabouts of any party involved. But over the years I wondered if they still lived under their new identities and, if they did, what that might mean for the baby when she or he had grown up. I thought about where in the world they might go, what they might do, what precautions they may take, to what length they would go to blend into their new environment and whether the child ever knew of their true identity.

With these questions in mind a plot formed in my mind and I realised I needed the right setting to help shape my character.

I needed a setting that allowed my family of characters to fit in and one that enabled the child to be able to gain the skills that might one day help them survive, without those activities seeming odd. I wanted my character to be able to use firearms, fly drones, drive cars and motorbikes at a young age, to use knives, and to fight. I didn't have to look far. I grew up on a wheat farm in the Mallee, Victoria – a farm upbringing for my character was perfect. It enabled her to learn everything she needed to know. It would teach her to be resilient, resourceful, multi-skilled and self-sufficient. Most importantly a farm setting would give

my character the upper hand of local knowledge when the bad guys came looking for her. I now live on a rice farm in NSW and the landscape and infrastructure (or lack thereof in some cases) provided the perfect backdrop for this story. The town in *Found* is based on Deniliquin, NSW. Although some landmarks are accurate, I have used creative licence when it was needed to serve the story. The wonderful community spirit that is depicted in *Found*, however, is true of this town and other farming communities I have lived in.

## PRE-READING QUESTIONS

- Make a list of the differences that you are aware of between life in the city and life on a farm in rural Australia.
- Find Deniliquin on a map and look up the town's history, local industries and climate.

## WRITING STYLE

- The story of *Found* is told in both first- and third-person from Beth and Jonah's character perspectives respectively. Compare these two points of view and how we get to know the characters differently. What considerations should a writer make when choosing which perspective to write from?
- The story of *Found* is told from the point of view of two characters. Have a go at writing a story using split perspective. Discuss any difficulties you encounter making the story work.
- How does the author create tension in the story, leading to the terrifying climax?
- Which plot points fit the following elements of a successful thriller story?
  - Points where the character thinks he or she is safe but is proved wrong
  - Time imperatives or 'ticking clocks'
  - Points where the stakes are raised
  - Inciting incidents
  - Complications
  - Twists
  - A darkest hour when all hope seems lost
- What is Beth's character arc in the novel? What does she learn about herself and others?
- What is Jonah's character arc in the novel. What does he learn about himself and others?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Identity

- *'I am Elizabeth Miller, aren't I? Elizabeth Miller, only child with no grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. Elizabeth Miller who loves hanging out with friends. House captain, karate black belt, trap shooting champion. Jonah's girlfriend. Farm kid. Member of the local netball, tennis, gun club, karate club and motocross teams. I go to Deni High School. I am and have always been Elizabeth Miller.'* (p. 57)  
There are three key things that make Beth question her identity – her name, her place of birth and her biological father. What makes us who we are? List the things that make you who you are.
- Elizabeth Miller finds out that her real name is Kennedy Jane. Does our name define us? If so, how? Is Elizabeth Miller the same person as Kennedy Jane?
- Beth finds out she was born in America, not in Australia like she thought. Does this make Beth less Australian? Does it change her identity?
- Beth finds out her biological father is dead and the man she believed was her father is her uncle. This makes Beth question his love for her. Does this change their father/daughter relationship? What makes a father/daughter relationship?

### Environment

- Beth's parents chose to live on a farm so she could learn the skills they wanted her to acquire. How does an environment shape us? What would be different about you if you were born into a different environment to what you know?
- Write a list of things you know and can do because of the environment you live in.
- Write a list of things that make you Australian.
- Write a list of things that are unique to being Australian.

### Family and genetics

- Beth has grown up believing she is an only child with no living family apart from her parents. She then finds out she has family in America. How might this change Beth? What might Beth find out about herself through her extended family?
- What role do extended family play in shaping us? What has Beth missed out on?

### Secrets and deceit

- Beth's parents kept their secret from her to protect her. List other reasons why people may keep secrets.
- *'I had a right to know before I was running for my life in a channel, before my boyfriend rode into a death trap and before Mum got shot! If you'd told me, things would've been different. Mum might still be alive.'* (p. 213)  
Imagine you have been told that your life is lie and you and your family are not who you thought you were. How would you react? Did Bear and Lucy do the right thing by not telling Beth the truth until they had to? Did they protect her or deceive her?
- Beth had a secret that even she didn't know. Even though she understood why her parents kept it from her she still felt betrayed and mistrusted. Are there good and bad secrets?
- Beth questions who she is, who her parents are and wonders if she knows her friends and community members. How well do we know ourselves? How well do we know our family, our friends and our neighbours/community members? Is it human nature to keep secrets?
- For years the Millers deceived the entire town about their identity, yet when they are found out the town does not turn against them even though lying is generally frowned upon. How do you feel about people who lie? Is it okay to lie if you have a good reason? When is it not okay to lie?
- Do all families have secrets? Do all individuals have secrets? Does having secrets make you a good or bad person?

### Love and hate

- Beth doesn't hesitate putting herself in danger when it comes to rescuing Jonah and then Lucy. She performs courageous acts when it comes to protecting those she loves. Then when her mother dies she feels the burning hatred that she sees in her attacker's eyes and she wants him to die. She figures she isn't so different from Carlos. Is Beth right? Are we all capable of hating a person? Are we all capable of wanting to bring harm to another person?
- If we are all capable of feeling love, are we all capable of feeling hatred?

### Rural Australia

- Beth lives on a rice farm in southern New South Wales. Where in Australia does rice grow? What types of farms are found in what areas of Australia?



- Bear is heavily involved in his community. He lives on a farm and leases out his land, has a full-time job in Deni, teaches martial arts, helps run two gun clubs and takes kids out on survival camp. Is this kind of community involvement unique to country areas? If so, why?
- *'This story will be a part of Jonah now. When he's talked about, or introduced, it will wheedle its way into the conversation to help explain who he is. In Deni, everyone has a tagline.'* (p. 201)  
In small country communities everyone knows everyone. List the benefits and disadvantages this might bring to an individual. List the benefits and disadvantages the anonymity of city life might bring to a person.
- In small communities everyone wants to see locals succeed and they help them achieve their goals if they can. How would this support structure effect individuals living in those communities? List positives and negatives.
- How does someone become a farmer? What knowledge and skillset do you need to become a farmer? What courses are available to those interested in agricultural science?
- When Lucy gives instructions to Beth she says, *'You make decisions with your head, not your heart. It's hard and it's cold, but sometimes it's the only way to survive.'* (p. 83) Does Lucy follow her own advice? List the times Lucy puts her safety second for someone else. Is this foolish or brave or something altogether different?

### Grief

- *'Although his guilt is heavy, deep down Jonah knows that Warra's right. None of what happened is solely his fault. A whole heap of things led to last night, and many other people had a hand in it . . .'* (p. 221)  
Bear, Jonah, Trent and Warra are all living with guilt. How does each character cope and manage their guilt differently?
- Look up the five stages of grief. What stages do we see Beth and Bear going through in the story? Find quotes to support your answers.
- Do you agree or disagree with the theory? Discuss other stages people might go through or different ways people might express grief.

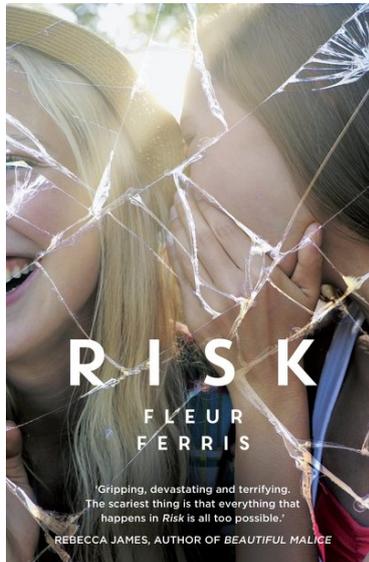
### ACTIVITIES

#### Friendship and redemption

- Trent took drugs and smashed up the hospital and the town turned against him. He went to rehabilitation and then returned to 'make things right'. Trent says, *'When you screw up in this town, you're always going to be the screw-up'* (p. 67). Is this true? How do people redeem themselves after they do something wrong? Are people forgiving when someone tries to make things right?
- *'I can't change what happened but I can try to fix it. I can change. I had to. It was either that or the drugs would've killed me. I figured facing my shame was better than moving away forever. But it's hard. People haven't forgiven me, that's for sure.'* (p. 152)  
Trent convinces Jonah that's he's changed and is a different person now. Can people really change? Does everyone deserve a second chance? Find other examples of characters changing in the story to discuss.
- Carly stands by Trent and shows him love and support even though the rest of the town have turned against him. What effect does this have on Trent? Is there ever a time we should not stand by our friends?
- Trent talks to Jonah about Carly. He says, *'She's why I came back . . . She probably saved my life.'* (p. 152) What might have happened to Trent had Carly not stood by him?
- *'Bear has these rules. Beth told me to take it down but I didn't. Then the International Fight Organisation shared it. Whoever those guys were, looking for the Millers, that's where they saw it. I may as well have written their address in the fucking sky.'* (p. 198) With a trusted friend, check out each other's social media profiles and posts such as those on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Would it be possible for a stranger trying to find you to do so? See if you can identify things that might put you or your friend's privacy at risk, or put you or your friend in danger should someone want to harm you. (For more information about privacy and security online, read Fleur's novel Risk and the Teachers' Resources available at [penguin.com.au/teachers](http://penguin.com.au/teachers), which include a quiz to see if you're taking risks you don't know about.)



## FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



*Risk*  
by Fleur Ferris

Taylor and Sierra have been best friends for their whole lives. But Taylor's fed up. Why does Sierra always get what – and who – she wants? From kissing Taylor's crush to stealing the guy they both met online for herself, Sierra doesn't seem to notice when she hurts her friends.

So when Sierra says Jacob Jones is the one and asks her friends to cover for her while she goes to meet him for the first time, Taylor rolls her eyes.

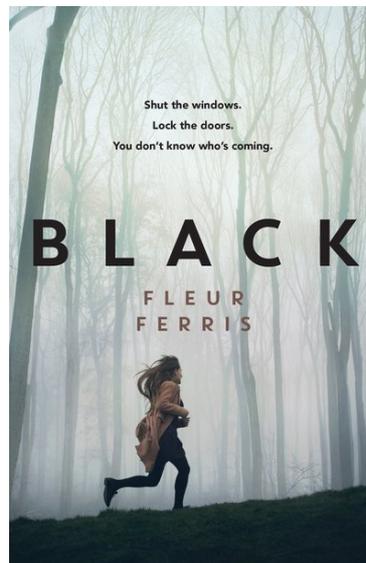
But Sierra doesn't come back when she said she would.

One day. Two days. Three . . .

When Taylor finally tells Sierra's mum that her daughter is missing, Taylor and her friends are thrown into a dark world they never even knew existed.

Can Taylor find Sierra's abductor in time? Or should she be looking for a killer?

*Teachers' resources available.*



*Black*  
by Fleur Ferris

Ebony Marshall is in her final year of high school. Five months, two weeks and four days . . . She can't wait to leave the town where she's known only as 'Black'. Because of her name, of course. But for another reason, too.

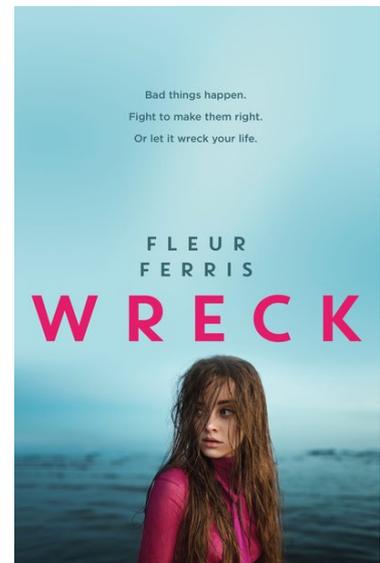
Everyone says Black Marshall is cursed.

Three of her best friends have died in tragic accidents. After Oscar, the whispers started. Now she's used to being on her own. It's easier that way.

But when her date for the formal ends up in intensive care, something in quiet little Dainsfield starts to stir. Old secrets are revealed and terrifying new dangers emerge.

If only Black could put all the pieces together, she could work out who her real enemies are. Should she run for her life, or stay and fight?

*Teachers' resources available.*



*Wreck*  
by Fleur Ferris

Tamara Bennett is going to be the first journalist to strictly report only good news. Finished with high school, Tamara is ready to say goodbye to her sleepy little town and part-time job at the local paper.

But things take an unexpected turn when Tamara arrives home to find her house ransacked and her life in danger. What is the mysterious note her attacker wants – and why is he willing to kill for it?

A tragic boating accident five years ago holds the clue that could keep Tamara alive. But how can she find the truth when she can't tell who's lying?

*Teachers' resources available.*



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Found	Fleur Ferris	9780143784326	8+	\$19.99		
Risk	Fleur Ferris	9780857986474	8+	\$19.99		
Black	Fleur Ferris	9781925324976	8+	\$19.99		
Wreck	Fleur Ferris	9780143784319	8+	\$19.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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