

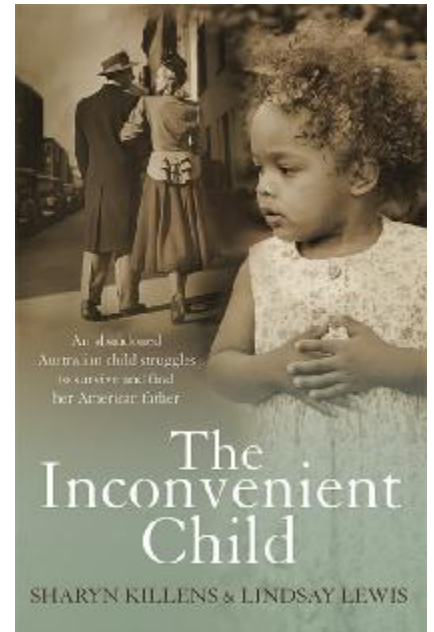


Book Reviews

The Inconvenient Child

Sharyn Killen was an inconvenient child for many reasons.

Born to white-skinned, blonde-haired Grace after a dalliance with Thaddeus Killens, a black Merchant Marine from America, Sharyn was sent to foster care straight from the maternity ward. Grace's mother had warned her daughter she would 'ruin her life' if she did not abort or at least adopt out this unwanted baby, and so Grace chose the less brutal of these options. In doing so, however, she very nearly ruined Sharyn's life. The White Australia Policy was firmly entrenched in post-war Australia so being both coloured and illegitimate was a guarantee Sharyn would suffer discrimination and disadvantage.



Co-written by Sharyn Killens and Lindsay Lewis, *The Inconvenient Child* traces Sharyn's misadventures in childhood, her time at the notorious Hay juvenile detention centre and her pursuit of her dream to become a singer. She is also determined to seek out her birth father and any brothers or sisters who might provide the love she has missed.

Unlike many biographies in the 'misery' genre, *The Inconvenient Child* is a well-written and compelling read. Sharyn's story is one of triumph over adversity with good humour and good grace aplenty. But it's also a bigger story of how we, as a nation, have learnt to grow up, to accept people for their differences rather than their similarities and to welcome those who we once might have shunned.

Highly recommended

Miracle Publishing - RRP \$35.00

Reviewed by Kaye Fallick

To find out more information, visit www.theinconvenientchild.com.

To purchase the book go to:



www.AboutSeniors.com.au