

A Secret Australian Child Finds her African American Family after a Search Spanning Two Continents and 48 Years.

Sharyn Killens is better known as **Sharyn Crystal**, a successful Australian singer and entertainer in clubs and on luxurious cruise ship stages around the world. But her life was not always glamorous and *The Inconvenient Child* is a gritty, no holds barred account of her secret birth, her battle to survive her traumatic childhood and her extraordinary journey to discover her true identity.

Born in 1948, Killens was the product of a blue-eyed blond Sydney socialite and a visiting African-American serviceman. Her mother struggled with the dilemma of what to do with her at a time when it was scandalous to have an illegitimate baby, let alone a black one, so she did all she could to distance herself from her inconvenient child.

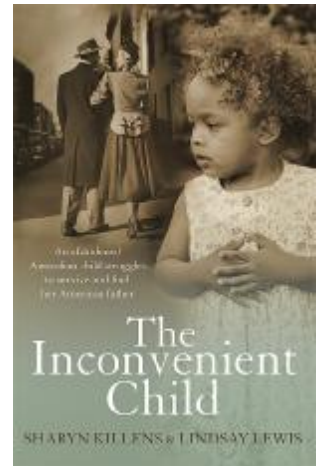
Rescued from squalid foster care, the 19 month old baby Sharyn was taken to live in a 'party house' in the red light district of Kings Cross but at age five, was abandoned in a convent-orphanage. By fifteen, she was a troubled teenage runaway, arrested and sent to notorious juvenile detention centres where she suffered cruel and inhumane treatment.

Her solace was her love of music but how could she realise her dream of becoming a successful singer and entertainer if by twenty-four, she was still caught up in the Kings Cross lifestyle as an exotic dancer?

Through courage and perseverance she achieved her singing dream as Sharyn Crystal, but her problematic relationship with her mother was exacerbated by the secret her mother kept. Finally, after forty years, the identity of Sharyn's father was revealed and Sharyn set out in search of Thaddeus Killens; a quest taking her another eight years.

The journey took her across the world to New York for an emotional reunion on a national US television show, hosted by the now famous expat Aussie talk show host, Gordon Elliott. Then to Los Angeles and eventually North Carolina, where the lost daughter found the belonging she had always yearned for. Here she discovered her African American roots.

How she got there and what she discovered en route makes for riveting reading.



To arrange an interview with Sharyn Killens and Author Lindsay Lewis
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