

Author bio 2024

I'm Samantha Wood. My first novel, *The Bay of Shadows* was published in December 2016. It is my first novel, although not my first book. That was a travel memoir, *Culua: My Other Life in Mexico* published by Random House Australia back in 2003, and was essentially a love letter to my mother's country.

I graduated from Monash University in 2005 with a Master's degree in Translation Studies (Spanish) focusing on the translations of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's little-known children's stories where angels crash landed in chicken coops and the world's handsomest man washed ashore. It was this fascination with language and the magic of words that inspired the story for *The Bay of Shadows*, but my love affair with writing started long before that. When I was a child, I loved nothing more than reading, and never went anywhere without a book. Naturally, when I finished high school, I went to university to study journalism, but my heart always belonged to storytelling. So after many trips to Mexico, I started writing *Culua* and have never looked back.

In May 2019 I published my follow-up novel, *Under Ten Thousand Stars*, a psychological thriller set in wine country about love gone wrong. Earlier that year, I started my own publishing company, Magpie Tree Press, so that I could publish and develop my own books for Australian and international markets and, eventually, for the screen. I love storytelling and, most of all, meeting readers during my author talks where I get the chance to travel around the country, visiting libraries far and wide where I talk about the writing process, what I've learned since starting my own imprint, and sharing tips and tricks for aspiring authors in the audience. And while 2020/21 saw me grounded from travel, I did get the chance to think about new story ideas.



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In 2021 I was invited to become an Australia Reads Ambassador, which gave me further opportunities to talk about my love of writing – and books – and share the book love far and wide. Late that year, I also completed the third novel in the Coastal Noir Trilogy, *The Song of Clouds*, a story of hope and second chances, which is set on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. It was released on February 28, 2022. I'm now working on my fourth novel, *Mangrove Road*, which is less thriller, more mystery, with a dash of suspense. It has a tentative release date for November 2024 so not long to go now. Wish me writing luck!

For further information please see the following resources:
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