Short bio

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.

My latest novel, *Under Ten Thousand Stars*, a psychological thriller about love gone wrong in wine country was released in May 2019. Earlier this 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 look forward to writing many more stories in the future. I am currently working on my third novel, *The Song of Clouds*, another story of love against the odds, which is set on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

I loves travelling, reading, and swimming in the sea, cooking Mexican food, but mostly baking cakes, tarts, and anything sweet, taking an inordinate number of photos, visiting museums and, mostly, telling and being captivated by stories. You can connect with me, learn more about my books, and what comes next at www.samanthawoodauthor.com.