

Mia's Prequel

Mia felt lost. She missed the way her family had been. She missed her old house. She missed the way her father had sung her to sleep with songs of their Dreaming. She didn't feel like she belonged here in this house, in her mother's country.

"He's just like his father!", grandmother yelled.

"You don't know," her mother growled. "How could you when you never gave him a chance?"

Grandmother had just caught Mia's brother stealing cigarettes from her handbag and had chased him outside with a broom. She had seized on another reason to remind Mia's mother about how much of a deadbeat she thought Mia's father was. Mother, who had spent the afternoon drinking with her sisters, had found her own thoughts on the subject. The house felt too small.

Mia just needed space. She felt trapped inside. She walked around the block- the heat sending trails of sticky sweat down between her shoulder blades. Flies buzzed and stuck on her skin. She felt confined. Remembering the sprinkler grandfather had set up in the backyard in an attempt to salvage what remained of the grass- Mia decided to go back. She loved laying under the large gum that sent speckled shade over its large, thick roots. She would go back and turn on the sprinkler and forget about the heat and the heated words. As she rounded the corner of the house she realised she hadn't been the only one looking for escape... but she was appalled with how her brother had been dealing with his feelings... small bodies sprawled out across the yard.

Stay tuned for **Black Cockatoo** due for release in 2018!