

MARLIE MARCH

KEZIAH'S INHERITANCE: THE INHERITANCE SERIES BOOK 1



THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Keziah's story started fifteen years before I finally took the time to complete it as a publishable novel. My husband and I had taken our daughters on a campervan holiday to Mildura. I had my copy of the fifth Harry Potter book to read but I found myself with pen and paper plotting Keziah's story. The awful character of Mark Pope took up space in my brain and I just couldn't make him leave. I remember trying to explain this to my husband on our five-hour journey home. After our conversation, I decided that I needed to know more about dementia before fully committing to writing the novel and put all my notes away. Fast Forward: I ended up working in dementia care for fifteen years and our daughters had all left home. Keziah was always in the back of my mind, insisting that I tell her story. I had no more excuses. I resigned from my full-time job and with backside on seat and fingers on keyboard, I finally followed my dream.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation with all First Nation people, I choose to preface each of my novels with the following acknowledgment:

"The author acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which this novel was written. She pays her respect to their Elders, past and present, and to Aboriginal Elders emerging."

I have had the great honour to care for three Gunditjmara Elders during their final years when I worked in residential aged care. These Elders and their extended family members have generously given me a glimpse into what it was like to live on the Mission, or as some called it, "the old mish." Stories from the "Stolen Generations," are heartbreaking but need to be heard. I offer my own sincere apology as I say, "Sorry," to all Aboriginal people.

THE WOOTON DESK

"Wandering from room to room, Keziah found what she assumed was Mark's office. She touched an ornate sideboard that looked somewhat like it belonged in a palace. It was inlaid with different coloured pieces of wood, creating intricate geometric patterns. From the middle, an arch curved upward, and it was topped with delicate finials flanked by two carved eagle heads. Keziah gave Mason a questioning look. "It's called a Wooton desk. Known as the 'king of desks,' they have been made for Kings and Presidents alike. This one is dated 1874 and worth around ninety thousand dollars."



THE WEDDING

"Matron of honour, Lauren appeared first wearing a pale blue satin sheath gown and carrying a bouquet of blue hydrangeas. Keziah arrived next, wearing an ivory gown with a delicate lace overlay. The empire line gave way to a full-length flowing skirt which draped perfectly over her thirty-seven-week baby bulge, although her bouquet of red roses might have distracted onlookers. Jemimah followed, wearing the most beautiful white princess wedding gown imaginable. She had requested a traditional dress, but she asked that it be made backless to give it a sensual edge and to surprise Dylan when he put his arm around her. The virginal look from the front was complemented by a cascading arrangement of white roses and orchids and by the fingertip veil covering her face."



The Opal Ring

"It's an Australian opal, one of a kind and almost one hundred years old. Hang on. I memorised this bit. 'A yellow gold, classic claw set prong mounting, with a central five-carat natural solid crystal opal, surrounded by a halo of sixteen antique cut diamonds, forming an oval on a half-round shank. The base white colour of the opal displays green, blue, and red pinfire and coupled with the hand-cut diamonds, refracts a rainbow of colour under all levels of illumination.' Shall I go on?"



The Pope Mansion

I have a bit of an obsession with architecture and described the Pope Mansion from a 'mash-up' image in my mind. Finding an image of that to share here wasn't possible but this image of the mansion at the Rippon Lea Estate in Melbourne is close to what I had imagined.



Well, that's it for this 'story behind the story.'
I hope you enjoyed visiting Keziah's world.

Siblings Banjo, Lawson and Poet will each have their own stories written in The Lyric Creek Farm Series which will be published in 2022.

I love hearing from readers, so please leave a review and subscribe to my website.

Much love, Marlie March.