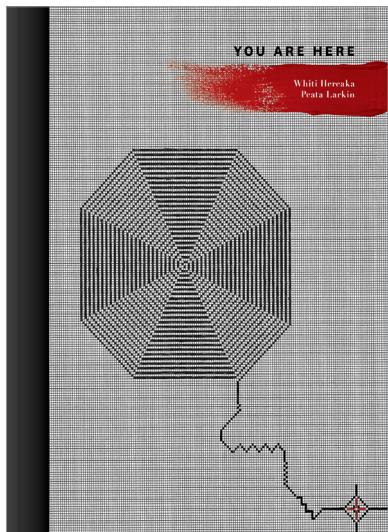




# You Are Here

WHITI HEREAKA AND PEATA LARKIN



\$45

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## A UNIQUE COLLABORATION IN WORDS AND ART

The sixth book in the remarkable kōrero series, edited by Lloyd Jones, features Jann Medlicott Acorn Fiction Prize winner Whiti Hereaka and the acclaimed artist Peata Larkin, cousins who share the same whakapapa, in a collaboration based on the Fibonacci number sequence.

In a feat of managed imagining, Hereaka's words spiral out to the centre of the book and then back in on themselves to end with the same words with which the text began. As the pattern spools out and then folds back, Peata Larkin's meticulous drawings of tāniko and whakairo and her lush works on silk weave their own entrancing pattern.

'It is my hope that by the time you have walked that path that you are now a different reader and will read those words in a new way,' Hereaka says.

*You Are Here* is a beguiling and important addition to the kōrero series.

'This is beautiful. A beautiful production, a beautiful concept, and it's beautifully executed' — Stella Chrysostomou, RNZ

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Whiti Hereaka** (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Arawa) is a playwright, novelist, screenwriter, and barrister and solicitor. She holds a Masters in Creative Writing (Scriptwriting) from the International Institute of Modern Letters, Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington, and is a trustee of the Māori Literature Trust. Her fourth novel, *Kurangaituku*, won the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction at the 2022 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. She is a lecturer in the creative writing programme at Massey University, and is working on her PhD in creative writing.

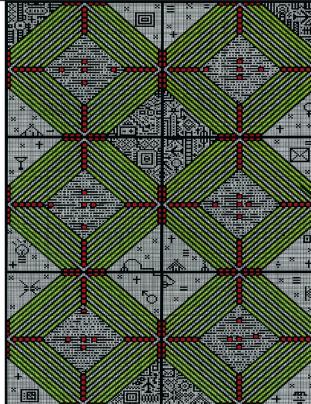
**Peata Larkin** (Te Arawa, Tūhourangi, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Tūwharetoa) graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from RMIT, Melbourne, in 2009 and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland. Her public and private commissions have included ANZ Tower, Westfield Newmarket, Park Hyatt and the International Conference Centre in Auckland. Her work is held in the collections of Memphis Museum of Fine Arts, Rotorua Museum Arts Trust, Pātaka Art + Museum, the University of Waikato and Massey University.

## SALES POINTS

- The sixth in Massey University Press's lauded kōrero series of gorgeous 'picture books for grownups', edited by Lloyd Jones
- Beautifully written and superbly illustrated by two of New Zealand's finest practitioners
- A beautiful, collectable hardback



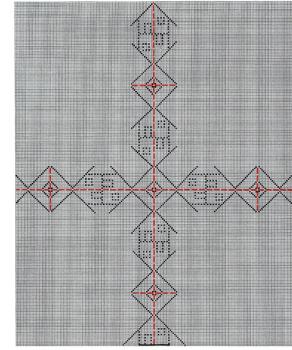
Back at the beginning again.



44

You left a place a while ago, but it has never really left you. Its mark is indelible on the place it leaves you, and the people you leave behind, before the place you have lost. Even when you do not return to you, everyone every new home to this one, your first home, perhaps your only home.

22



Consider this, there if so much can be destroyed in a few short lifetimes, what could be achieved in the next few? You look at the next generation, and marvel at how well they have turned out.

The map of your mind can be reduced, there is no need to keep to the narrowness of an old world view. You can be expansive. You can make new pathways, you can broaden the mind, you can learn new things, you can learn new ways of thinking, you can learn a variety of languages, tongue and tooth, breath and throat. You hope that one day you will convert it all, right, now, now.

All, but the bright, sharp sting of the past you can. The anger that you have to in this the world, the world you live in. Sometimes it overwhelms you and you get lost in the rage of it – what more could you do? It is like if you didn't have to spend that time fighting the world, you could have more time to do other things. You could have more time to do other things, like, for example, a decade or two ago, when learning seemed feasible because if you could speak, who would you speak to? You smart at the memory of your younger self. Because even though you have evolved from that moment, partly by your own doing – it was really because you were smart. Of course. Of course enough. Of course enough.

It has taken you a long time to realize that this is part of your journey too – that there are still aspects to welcome. That for you it is not as simple as remastering keeps and places and systems – it is carrying yourself more thoroughly, or perhaps, more fully.

For a long time, you've thought of it as your choice to leave. But perhaps, you have been carrying a secret, a secret that you have not told anyone. That is the secret of any thinking – that you are alone. There are many people who will carry it with you.

Brand new life and indeed your name. You've never visited as an adult, so your only memories are from when you were a child. You think of a basket, long forgotten.

You find a bit uncomfortable, because in some ways you are a stranger here, you have been away for a very long time. This is the place that you tell people you are from after marriage, after all, after all – you are here, but have you ever been present?

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What is it that stops you now?

Is it the possibility of failure? You've succeeded failure many times before, so why would this be different? Perhaps you have lost too much in your ability to speak, to interact. Because it is more than understanding a language – it is making sense of yourself.

And perhaps there is nothing more frightening than reckoning with yourself. If you'd never a voice, you'd jump off the first nose, despite the cold and being fully clothed. You'd never be able to get back on, because you'd be afraid to get back on, because then as you pedaled yourself on and off, the waves following behind you off the edge. The first time would do it to you make your descent – perhaps a short one or two of a short one, but then you'd be afraid to get back on, because you'd be afraid to get back on, because you sink into the water, you would hang suspended there in the deepest shadow, of perhaps you'd be afraid to get back on, because you'd be afraid to get back on, because then it would cut to yousurfing again, laughing – circles in your heart completed at last. You faced your childhood fear and now you can face anything.

Have dreams that you can't quite get to the end of, perhaps, because they are not quite there yet, still, even though they're really there to live. Why do you think that because you've never jumped from here you lack courage? Why have you never tried to plan a life?

You know that you are born. That this is not the cliff you need to conquer. That someone else jumps from the rocks to the lake is not the leap you need to complete. You seek a different kind of immaturity – not in the cold clear water below, but in the waters of your own mind.

Breathe out.

Breathe in.

53

Now you know the shape of your beginning, you are in correspondence, it is the beginning and now, it is the birth to – shall we say, but also in the full birth of the presentness, the strength of the kids. It makes sense of you and you of it. You presented aware in the present.

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