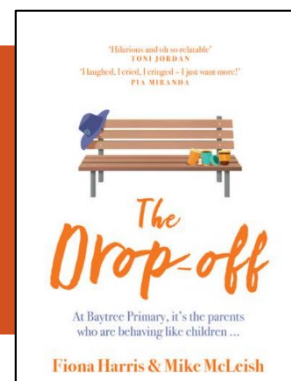




The Drop-Off

Fiona Harris & Mike McLeish



Author Background

Fiona is an Australian actor, writer, producer and director, and the author of various children's book series' including *The Super Moopers*, *Miraculous* and *Trolls*. She has written television sketch comedy, numerous stage plays and one woman shows, and has acted on screen (*The Beautiful Lie*, *Tangle*, *Skithouse*) and stage (*Spencer*, *Long Gone Lonesome Cowgirls*) for the past twenty years.

Mike is an Australian actor, writer, singer, musician, cabaret performer, song writer, one-time artistic director and full-time collaborator with his wife, Fiona Harris. He famously played Paul Keating in *Keating! The Musical*. This past year he has appeared on the television in *Utopia* and *Mustangs FC*, and on stage in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.

Fiona and Mike met in a production of *Six Degrees of Separation* in Melbourne in 1998 where they were cast as a couple. Nearly twenty years later they are married and have collaborated on numerous projects. *The Drop-Off* is their debut novel based on their award-winning, critically acclaimed web series of the same name.

Book Summary

Lizzie, Megan and Sam became accidental friends over good coffee, banter and wrong-world jokes at school drop off. Lizzie is a part-time midwife with four kids and a secret past. Sam is an ex-chef and stay-at-home dad with an absent, high-flying corporate wife. Megan is an ex-model single mum with a thriving online business and no time for loneliness. None of them have much interest in their school community, but when tragedy deals Baytree Primary's reputation a potentially crippling blow, this unlikely trio must step up.

Forced out of their respective comfort zones, Lizzie, Megan and Sam learn more about each other, the school and themselves than they thought possible.

And it all begins at The Drop-Off.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What did you like best about this book?
- ❖ What did you like least about this book?
- ❖ What other books did this story remind you of?
- ❖ Books on parenting and schoolyard politics seem to be popular of late. What do you think it is about these aspects of life that have people so interested?
- ❖ Lizzie, Megan and Sam all experience a disruption in their lives throughout the book. How do you think they each handled it?
- ❖ The book explores relationships between adults - romantic, platonic, and social. Discuss what you think might be the biggest take away about relationships from this novel.
- ❖ Are you happy with the ending?
- ❖ Do you think the overall themes of the book are relatable to those who have not experienced school 'drop-offs'?

References

- ❖ Allen & Unwin: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/fiction/The-Drop-off-Fiona-Harris-and-Mike-McLeish-9781760686123>
- ❖ Fiona Harris: <https://fionaharris.com/writer/mike-fiona/>