

# THIS IS NOT A LIE

## BOOK CLUB NOTES

In 1984, Joel Reed is the lead guitarist in The Blackhearts, an up-and-coming hard rock band that was born in St Kilda, the bohemian heart of Melbourne's music scene.

A high-functioning heroin addict, Joel is also a closet homosexual and is desperately lonely and dangerously self-destructive until he meets a man who becomes the lead singer in his band the unexpected the love of his life.

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### Trailers

<https://youtu.be/38-pemVwE2k>

<https://youtu.be/cDFf3-uFkNg>

### Purchase

<https://www.bookdepository.com/This-is-not-lie-SC-Farrow/9781913680039>

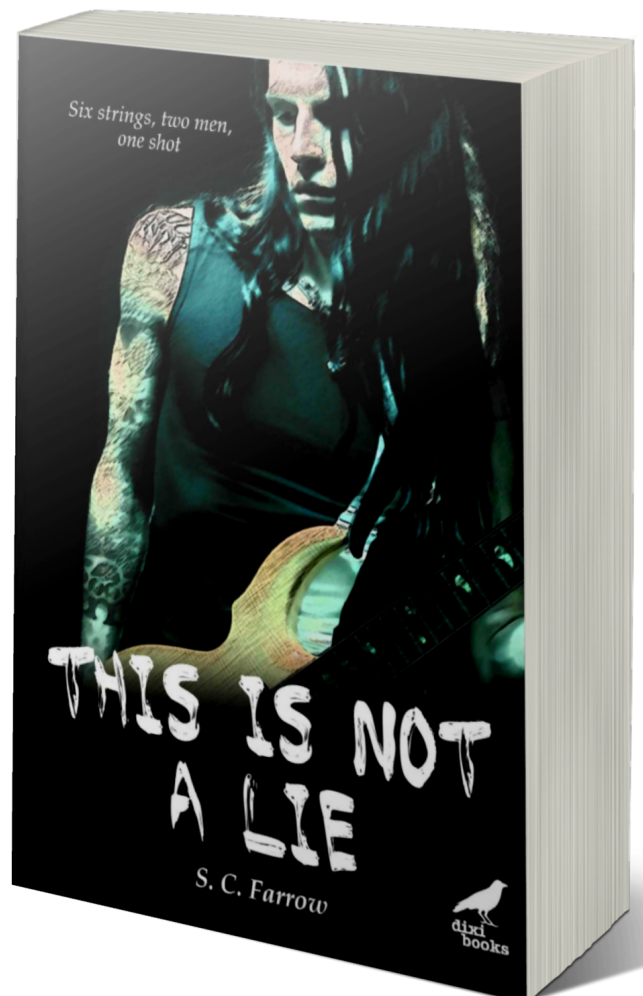
### Author visit

Online (or in person where possible)

[www.scfarrow.com](http://www.scfarrow.com)

Author S.C. Farrow loves to write but she hasn't always been a writer. In the past, she's had some pretty wacky jobs like lampshade maker, cigarette girl, and vocalist. She's also done some wacky things like spending a week in a Swiss castle with the Hugh Jackman of Cuba, climbing inside the Great Pyramid of Egypt, climbing to the top of the Sidney Music Bowl, and getting arrested for possession of a prohibited substance.

Born and raised in Australia, S.C. lives in the leafy green northern suburbs of Melbourne. She has a master's degree in creative writing and teaches creative writing at institutions across the city.



## **CONVERSATION IDEAS**

Did you know about the book's subject matter before reading it?

What feelings did it evoke for you?

Does the book seem realistic? Does it seem truthful?

Do you think the author did much research?

The narrative contains some challenging themes. Which one do you think is the most important? Are any of them relevant in today?

The band's future was hanging in the balance until Harry arrived on the scene. Do you think Harry's arrival was coincidental or divine providence?

The romance between Joel and Harry developed fast and hard. If it weren't for what happened, do you think their love would have lasted?

What about Karen? Do you think her actions towards Harry were justified?

Joel's relationship with Madison is unlike his relationships with anyone else. Why do you think that is?

What do you think happened to Joel once the book ended?

Which character did you like the best? Or could you relate to the most? What about the worst?

Is there a moment or a scene that you like the best? What about the worst?

Do you have a favourite quote? If so, why does it stand out for you?

Do you believe the narrative glorifies the use of illegal substances?

Do you believe addicts are criminals who should be punished?

Do you think the book ends with a sense of hope?

What do you think was the author's purpose in writing this book? What ideas were they trying to get across?

Do you still have questions about the story? If so, what are they?

If you had the chance to ask the author one question, what would it be?