

Invitation to a Literary Luncheon

Scotland Island author Kathleen James will discuss her recent novel *Inlaws and Outlaws* at 12.00pm at Mona Vale Library on Wednesday 17th February. Bookings essential, ph: 9970 1600. A light luncheon is provided. Costs: \$8 adults or \$6 concession.

Inlaws and Outlaws

'Kathleen James deals with the issues of adoption with grace, sensitivity and sincere compassion. This is a wonderful read and personally it touched me on so many levels.... To bring to others the dilemma that is adoption with such understanding is a huge achievement.'

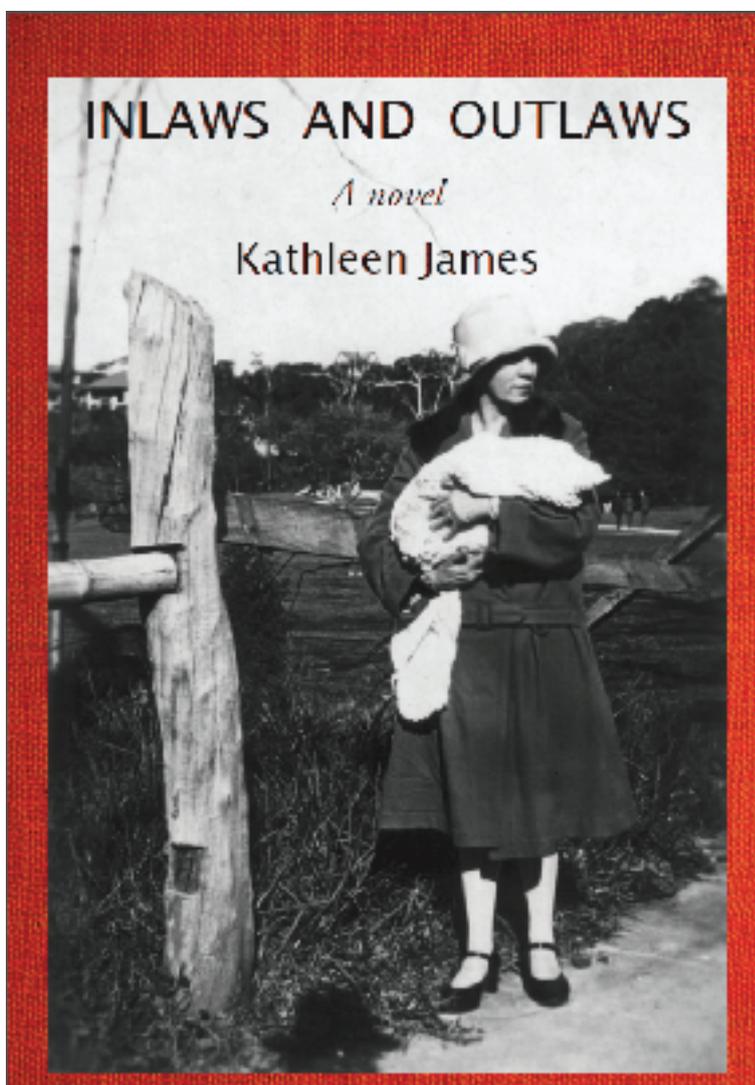
Penelope Wise, representative of the Adoptive Parents Association (APA) on the NSW Standing Committee on Adoption, Australia, 1977 - 1990.

Family secrets around adoption and bigamy unfold alongside a troubled and passionate love story. Helen's secret grief is that as a teenager she had her first baby adopted out in 1969. She hopes for a reunion with him when he turns 21. This reflects the author's own story. 10,000 women, mostly unmarried girls, gave up their babies at the peak of adoption in Australia in 1971-2.

Helen and her new partner Marco gradually uncover the hidden family stories which will change their lives. The setting moves between Sydney in Australia and Parma and Venice in Italy. The voices of three narrators are heard in alternating chapters: Helen, Marco and Helen's Uncle Mick, a compulsive gambler and a loveable rogue back in the 1930s.



Artwork and Scarf by Photo by Jessica
Rougie, Renata Hoffman. McGowan



About the Author

I work part-time as a freelance editor. The youngest of four children, I was born in England and we emigrated to Australia as 'Ten Pound Poms' when I was nearly seven years old, and settled in Sydney. I live with my long-time de facto partner Glenn on the beautiful Pittwater. I wrote this novel for my daughters Merran and Jessica, for general readers, 'outlawed' unmarried mothers, children born outside of marriage, and those on all sides of the adoption triangle. It reflects the story of my eldest daughter Merran's adoption at birth when I was 17 years old. This was an ongoing grief, until I was lucky enough to find her again when she was a young woman.

I'm very interested in old photographs from the 1920s, 30s and 40s. It was a box of old photographs that inspired the characters of Uncle Mick and Auntie Vera in *Inlaws and Outlaws*.

***Inlaws and Outlaws* is available as an ebook and paperback at kathleenjamesauthor.com and from Inspiring Publishers Bookshop online. The ebook can also be purchased from Amazon.**