

The Lost Pages

by Marija Peričić

ABOUT THE BOOK:

The Lost Pages is one of the six books shortlisted for the 2017 Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction.

The Lost Pages is the imagined memoir of Franz Kafka's literary executor, Max Brod. Opening in Prague, 1908, he is the rising star of the literary world. But when a rival, the talented newcomer Franz Kafka, appears on the scene, Max discovers how quickly he can lose everything he has worked so hard to attain.

JUDGES' COMMENTS:

'*The Lost Pages* is a psychological examination of rivalry, madness and unrequited love. The deepest of human emotions are laid bare and sifted through with a clear eye by the author. At times farcical, at other times surreal, this book is utterly unique.'

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Marija Peričić grew up in Perth, Western Australia, the child of German and Croatian immigrants. She holds a Masters degree in English Literature, and now lives in Melbourne where she teaches English as a foreign language. *The Lost Pages* is her debut novel and the winner of the 2017 Australian/Vogel's Literary Award.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Competition and rivalry are themes in this book. Do you think the author succeeded in making these themes realistic?
2. How does what you know of Kafka and his writing fit with *The Lost Pages*?
3. At his most desperate, Brod uses an 'impersonator' in *The Lost Pages*. Why does he do this? Could this be done now, in the age of the internet?
4. *The Lost Pages* won the 2017 Australian/Vogel's Literary Award. What does this say about what we consider Australian literature today?
5. *The Lost Pages* is largely concerned with internal states of being. Does it also succeed at creating a picture of Prague at the turn of the twentieth century?
6. Max Brod is a complex and fascinating figure. Were you sympathetic regarding his insecurity, and did your feelings change as the novel progressed?