

The Patterson Girls **by Rachael Johns**

About the book

How can four sisters build the futures they so desperately want, when the past is reaching out to claim them?

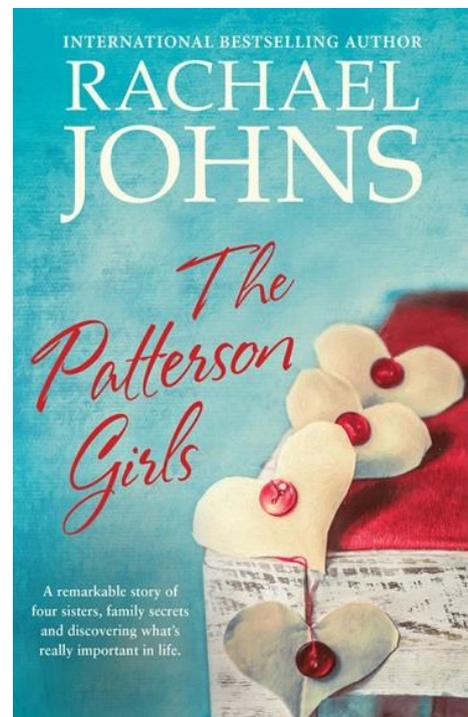
When the Patterson daughters return home to Meadow Brook to be with their father after their mother's death, they bring with them a world of complication and trouble.

The eldest sister, obstetrician Madeleine, would rather be anywhere but her hometown, violinist Abigail has fled from her stellar career, while teacher Lucinda is struggling to have the children she and her husband so desperately want. The black sheep of the family, Charlie, feels her life as a barista and exercise instructor doesn't measure up to that of her gifted and successful sisters.

Dealing with their bereft father who is determined to sell the family motel, their loves old and new and a series of troublesome decisions doesn't make life any easier, but when they go through their mother's possessions and uncover the shocking secret of an old family curse, they begin to question everything they thought they knew.

A warm and wise novel about secrets revealed, finding your soulmate and the unique bond between sisters.

'The relationships between the sisters remind me of Monica McInerney's family-focused narratives. This is a great book to curl up with on a lazy Sunday afternoon' – Books + Publishing



About the author



Rachael Johns is an English teacher by trade, a mum 24/7, a supermarket owner, a chronic arachnophobe and a writer the rest of the time. She rarely sleeps and never irons. Rachael writes rural romance and women's fiction and lives in rural Western Australia with her hyperactive husband, three mostly-gorgeous heroes-in-training, two fat cats, one naughty dog and a very cantankerous budgie.

At 17 Rachael began writing, enlightened by the thought that she could create whatever ending she liked and so she embarked on a Bachelor of Arts in Writing. Almost fifteen years later, after joining the Romance Writers of Australia, she finally achieved her goal of publication. Since then Rachael has finished in a number of competitions, including the Australian Romance Readers Awards. *Jilted* (her first rural romance) won Favourite Australia Contemporary Romance in 2012 and she was voted in the Top Ten of Booktopia's Favourite Australian Author poll in 2013.

Rachael loves to hear from readers and can be contacted via her website www.rachaeljohns.com She is also on Facebook and Twitter.



Suggested discussion questions for *The Patterson Girls*

Which of the four sisters did you most identify with? Why?

Which sister would you share a secret with?

Almost all the characters in *The Patterson Girls* are hiding some kind of secret. Why do you think they don't feel comfortable sharing with each other at the start?

Charlie often feels different, inferior, to her sisters. Do you think her feelings are valid or imagined? Does this happen often in families?

When Abigail embarks on an affair with Nigel she is an emotional wreck, how do you think she grows and changes throughout the novel? What does she learn about life and about herself?

What is your opinion on single women using donor sperm to have a child on their own? Do you think Madeleine's decision was well thought out?

If this book was a romance novel, which couple's falling-in-love story would you most like to read and why?

The men in the book have very different personalities and backgrounds. Who was your favourite: Hugo, Nigel, Joe or Mitch? Why?

What do you think would have happened to the family if the results of the paternity test were different?

Do you believe in curses? Have you any personal experience with them?