



REPEAT PATTERN

Tracey Diggins

A REVIEW BY KATHERINE SCHOLES

Over 20 years ago, Tracey met me for a coffee and told me she was working on a collection of poems that she aimed to turn into a book.

Since then, I occasionally wondered how she was going with her plan. But the truth is that I quite often have these meetings, where dreams and hopes are laid out. Often, I never hear anything more.

Imagine my delight when, after all this time, Tracey appeared with a copy of REPEAT PATTERN in her hand. Whatever I'd imagined she might create, this wasn't it. The book is so much more than a collection of poems.

REPEAT PATTERN brings written language together with potent elements of design. We see individual words and short phrases carefully placed on nearly blank pages, power lying in the interplay of voice and silence. There are diagrams and illustrations, glowing colours, rich textures of fabric and paper...

You can't really take the elements apart – they are so finely knitted together.

From page one, it's clear that this work has been born of a heartfelt struggle. It is raw. Naked. Undefended. Everything that makes up the big stage of life is here – loss, grief, abandonment, love, death, birth, beauty and savagery. These are common themes for artists of all genres. But in Tracey's book we also have geometry, maths, morse code, weather patterns, and more.

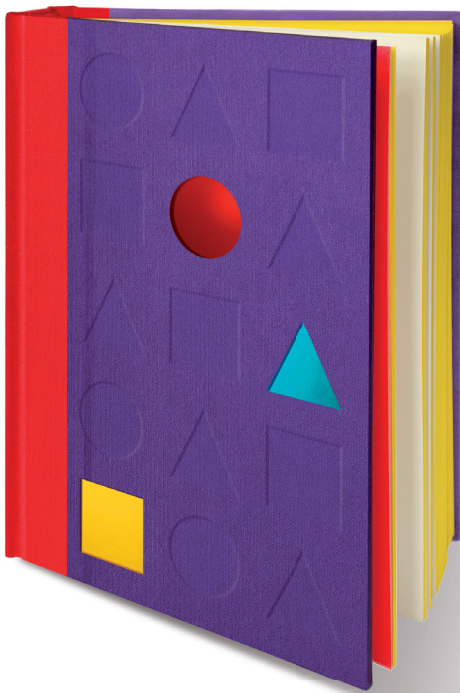
Glimmering through the stories of pain and loss, is a whimsical humour. A streak of abiding hope. For all the exploration of endings, there is the light of new beginnings.

You can see the outcome of all the years that have passed – the onion-skin layers of thought and feeling, gathered and curated over time.

I saw myself in these pages, these words – and I'm sure you will, too.

I recommend you buy a copy of REPEAT PATTERN for yourself, and one – or a few – to give away. It's a work that invites a response. I suspect there will be many more patterns repeating in other creative hands, as this beautiful book travels out into the world.

Congratulations to Tracey Diggins and the whole team behind the publication of this book. (As we all know, it takes a village...)



KATHERINE SCHOLES

is an internationally bestselling author, with over two million books sold.

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