



Our Magic Hour

Jennifer Down

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Audrey, Katy and Adam have been friends since high school—a decade of sneaky cigarettes, drunken misadventures on Melbourne backstreets, heart-to-hearts, in-jokes.

But now Katy has gone. And without her, Audrey is thrown off balance: everything she thought she knew, everything she believed was true, is bent out of shape.

Audrey's family—her neurotic mother, her wayward teenage brother, her uptight suburban sister—are likely to fall apart. Her boyfriend, Nick, tries to hold their relationship together. And Audrey, caught in the middle, needs to find a reason to keep going when everything around her suddenly seems wrong.

Evocative and exquisitely written, *Our Magic Hour* is a story of love, loss and discovery. Jennifer Down's remarkable debut novel captures that moment when being young and invincible gives way to being open and vulnerable, when one terrible act changes a life forever.

Jennifer Down is a writer and editor whose work has appeared in publications including the *Age*, *Saturday Paper*, *Australian Book Review* and *Overland*. *Our Magic Hour*, her debut novel, was shortlisted for the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript. She lives in Melbourne.

'Intimate, raw and occasionally heartbreaking...I loved this book. Down is an exceptional writer...*Our Magic Hour* is beautiful, gut-wrenching fiction and I cannot recommend it highly enough.' Readings

'Down has perfectly captured the vulnerability of youth...An incredibly intimate and tender novel about friendship, family and the transformative power of grief...It is easily one of the best Australian debuts I've read in a long time.' *Lip Mag*

'Down's novel is a story about very small things, that all add up to very big things about grief and friendship, love and death...Down has an impressive feel for the drama of the ordinary.' *Age/Sydney Morning Herald*

'Down has a reserved but beautiful prose...In its maturity and elegance, *Our Magic Hour* is a surprising and captivating debut novel. I have no doubt that Down will produce more quality writing in the future.' *Farrago*

'Down's preoccupations are those of a young adult grappling with heavy issues, and she does so admirably...*Our Magic Hour* takes place in a lively, vivid Melbourne cityscape.' *Otago Daily Times*

'Striking, breathlessly written...Down's clear and confident voice can play originally with language...An eloquent debut.' *WA Today*

'Down's supple social realism has a vitality and energy to it...This is real writing about real people in a real place...I'm sure that Down will be a fixture in the Australian lit scene for years to come.' *Lifted Brow*

'An impressive and emotionally sophisticated novel.' *Australian Book Review*

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Pamela Stanley:

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