

PRAISE FOR *INTO THE FIRE*

‘A perceptive, provoking story of friendship and intimacy, which examines the conundrum where the personal and political collide. *Into the Fire* raises a timely question: what stories are we willing to believe about our own and other people’s lives? I loved it.’

Rosalie Ham

‘In this taut and thoughtful novel, Sonia Orchard deftly steers us through the twists and turns of female friendship, love and motherhood, and past the multiple hazards of the male gaze. *Into the Fire* is a smart, heartbreaking and richly rewarding read.’

Jacinta Halloran

‘Orchard is an astute observer of long friendships, their binds, their blind loyalties, their casual betrayals. Alice, Crow and Lara will stay with me a long time.’

Kristina Olsson

‘A compelling and affecting novel that cuts to the heart of what it means to live a meaningful life, especially in the midst of an acutely narcissistic culture. Orchard’s portrait of her flawed, deeply human protagonist is sometimes hard to bear witness to. This is a beautifully controlled novel from a writer who shows us the power of fiction to engage both empathy and intellect. A reader can’t help but come away powerfully changed. A timely and necessary book.’

Julienne van Loon

‘Heartbreaking: long after the final pages, Orchard had me sifting through the embers to find what was left of friendship and loyalty. Forced to review her past through the lens of a tragedy, Orchard’s narrator is a woman wrestling with just how much blame she can apportion, and how much she herself has to shoulder.’

Cassandra Austin

‘Perhaps what’s most intriguing about this story is the sharp commentary on gender politics, comparing our university-age selves to our mid-career selves, and the subtle power of gaslighting. *Into the Fire* will appeal to fans of Emily Maguire, Zoë Heller and Sofie Laguna.’

★★★★ *Books + Publishing*