

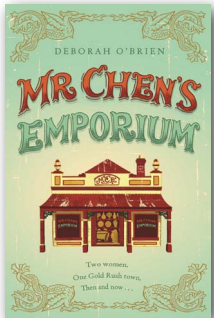
THE JADE WIDOW

DEBORAH O'BRIEN

A captivating historical novel of pioneering Australian women finding their way in a man's world, from the author of the bestselling *Mr Chen's Emporium*.

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'There were times when Amy was drawn to the topsy-turvy world that Eliza espoused, where women were able to vote and Australia was one nation. Then again, it might be like falling down Alice's rabbit hole to a place where chaos reigned.'

It's been more than a decade since the death of Amy's beloved Mr Chen and the vivacious and rebellious young woman she once was has been replaced by an overly-cautious mother.

She barely wears anything but black, despite constant reminders that the official mourning period has long passed and that she is a young, not a black widow.

Eliza took her hand and squeezed it. 'What happened to that brave, determined girl?'
Amy answered in a whisper, 'She died the night the strangling angel stole her husband.'

Meanwhile, her best friend, Eliza Miller, leads Millbrooke's covert suffragette movement, while harbouring "unladylike" dreams – to become one of Australia's first female doctors. However, when she returns to her hometown from her medical studies at the Sorbonne, she finds the job she thought was hers has been taken . . . by a man.

There was vehement opposition to women having equal rights with men.

Over the course of two turbulent years Amy and Eliza will face difficult choices that still resonate with women today: Love or duty? Career or marriage? Is it possible to have it all . . . ?

Peppered with encounters with true Australian identities – including artists Charles Conder and Tom Roberts, politician Sir Henry Parkes, influential suffragette Rose Scott and respected merchant Quong Tart – *The Jade Widow* is an enchanting story of two women trying to find their place in a world dominated by men and a nation on the path towards Federation.

Deborah O'Brien is a teacher, visual artist and writer. Born and raised in Sydney, she majored in French and German at the University of Sydney where she also completed a graduate Diploma of Education. She has authored a number of non-fiction books, contributed articles to a variety of magazines and written short stories. Together with her husband and son, she divides her time between Sydney and a country cottage on the outskirts of her own personal Millbrooke. *The Jade Widow* is her second novel, following the bestselling *Mr Chen's Emporium*.

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