

## EXPLORING IDENTITY AND CULTURAL CONFLICT IN THE HEART OF INDIGENOUS NEW ZEALAND

Rebecca Burns follows up the success of her debut collection, *Catching the Barramundi*, with a powerful portrayal of the impact of British settlement in colonial New Zealand in her new book of short stories, *The Settling Earth*, published by Odyssey Books.

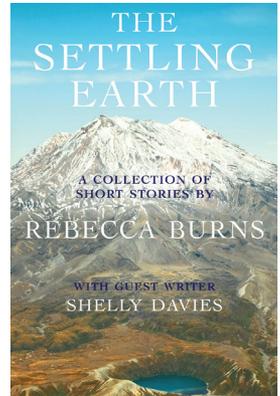
In nine interlinked tales, the lives of British settlers are delicately entwined as they struggle between the familiarities of their homeland and the hope for a new beginning in a strange land far from everything that they know. While some relish in the newfound freedom of their existence, others find the transition difficult to bear and are haunted by the sacrifices they are forced to make in order to survive.

In a special tenth story, Rebecca collaborates with Shelly Davies, a Maori author of the Ngātiwai tribe, to deliver a Maori perspective on the cultural conflict that arose when old world traditions met new world order.

Shelly's short stories, poetry and academic work has been published internationally for almost twenty years and she offers valuable insight into the native reception towards the integration of white values and beliefs into indigenous land.

*The Settling Earth* is an intimate tapestry of colonial experiences interspersed with crushing discoveries and quietly awakening truths in an untamed landscape that became home.

"Settler life was rich, varied and wonderful to research," says Rebecca. "The stories in *The Settling Earth* provide a snapshot of that life and I hope the reader finds them interesting."



**About the author:** Rebecca Burns is a UK author whose short stories have been published in various online and print journals. Her debut collection was longlisted for the Edge Hill Short Story Prize in 2013. A PhD in New Zealand literature led to a fascination of British colonialism and extensive research was conducted into the subject, particularly of British women's experiences of starting a new life in a foreign land.

*The Settling Earth* is available from all good bookstores and online retailers.

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