



Title: ***Dead Ends***

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In the dark, uncanny world of *Dead Ends*, our ghosts live alongside us, break ups come with a grisly cost, and there really are monsters under the bed. Laura Borrowdale's sophomore collection is full of the horrors of domestic banality, parenting, relationships, and womanhood. With deft and exacting prose, Borrowdale's stories reflect our own lives back at us told slant, revealing where something sinister lives just beneath the surface.

Laura Borrowdale is a short story writer from Ōtautahi, Christchurch. Her first collection of stories, *Sex, with Animals*, was published in 2020, and was selected as one of Newsroom's top novels of the year. She is one quarter of ngā pukapuka pekapeka, a chapbook micro press. She reviews books widely, mentors creative writers at the Hagley Writers' Institute, and teaches English at a local high school.

'*Dead Ends* is a collection of stories that bring the strange, the raw and the speculative into the light. Masterful as ever, Borrowdale makes the bite-sized glimpses into each new world feel more like a series of tiny epics, the aftertaste of every story still felt on the tongue as the next begins, sucking you in. There is a deep humanity here, a mirror imbedded in peculiarities of these stories - a collection of *Dead Ends*, perhaps, but also a thousand new beginnings; the discomfort of taking off, then the fever of the flight.' - Isla Huia