

# q book: CRIMSON LIGHT POLISHED WOOD

**Crimson Light Polished Wood**  
**Monica Raszewski**

**ISBN: 978-1-923023-45-1**

**Paperback (234 x 153 mm), 224pp RRP: \$32.99**

**Publication date: 1 August 2025**

**(Ebook 978-1-923023-46-8 \$ 16.99)**

'There is jealousy and deception in this strangely tender book that spans continents, generations and cultures. Pulsing with secrets, it stages the legacy of silence.' DOMINIQUE HECQ

- A deeply affecting novel about inheritance and identity, about not being seen, and about remembrance.
- It explores various aspects of inheritance, not only of property and possessions, but also of stories and culture, knowledge and pain. The novel has to do with identity, the need for recognition and intimacy and interrogates ideas of family and responsibilities beyond blood ties.
- Author's second novel, the first was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2022
- Melbourne launch and national publicity campaign.

Leonora, a British teacher, has relocated to Melbourne and falls in love with Margaret, a fellow female teacher who three years later dies of cancer. While still grieving for Margaret, Leonora meets and befriends Anna, the Polish woman who lives next door.

The novel illuminates with subtle ease the influence Leonora has on Anna's daughter, Lydia, introducing her to the wonderful world of literature and art.

This is a novel about the ways we all long for acceptance and the ways in which those we might feel most in touch with – including parents, siblings and mentors – can often have different values and views about us. As such it is a beautiful work about art, gender, inheritance, understanding and celebration.

'Through her protagonist, Lydia, Monica Raszewski delicately uncovers the layers of a family friend's hidden past. This is a compassionate novel about aloneness, disappointment and betrayal; and it's about a heartfelt desire for intimacy, connectedness and belonging,' Antoni Jach

**Monica Raszewski is Melbourne-based novelist and playwright. Her first novel, *The Archaeology of a Dream City*, was published in 2021 by Balestier Press (U.K.). It was shortlisted in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards (New Writing) in 2022. Monica has had short stories published in literary journals including *Overland*, *Meanjin* and *Southerly* and several plays produced in Melbourne and in Sydney. Her radio plays, *Forest* and *Ghost Words*, were produced by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and broadcast nationally.**





CRIMSON  
LIGHT  
POLISHED  
WOOD



MONICA  
RASZEWSKI

