

# CHOSEN BOYS

Petra Molloy

How can a community face up to the ultimate betrayal?

*He wonders how big God's hand is. If he has an eye that can see the whole world in a glance, his hand must be big enough to reach out of the sky and pluck him up with his giant fingers.*

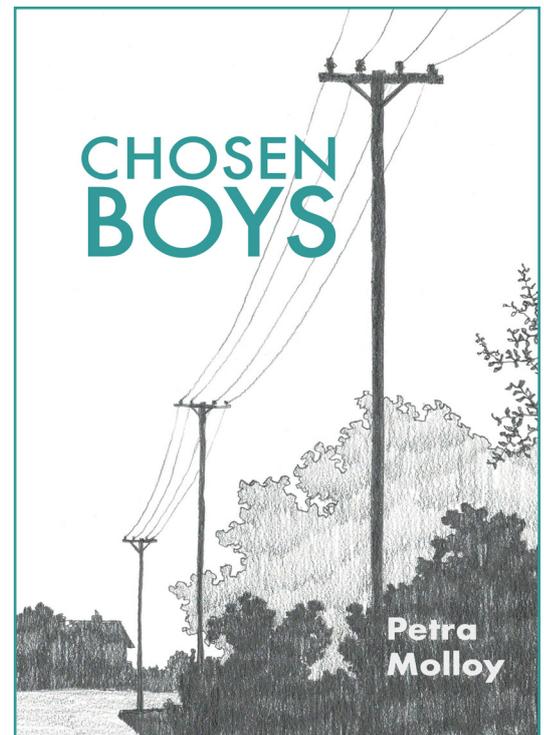
It is 1974 and seven-year-old Jack leads a carefree life, playing in his Auckland street. But when a new priest selects him to train as an altar boy, Jack's world is imperilled and he shrinks away from his community, his friends and his mother.

*Chosen Boys* explores what happens to a community when they are betrayed by those meant to care for their spiritual wellbeing. Set in a working-class Catholic community against the backdrop of the dawn raids, Molloy's moving debut novel asks the question: who will act when a predator declares himself 'another Christ on Earth'?

## Sales points

- The first novel to explore the child abuse scandal within the New Zealand Catholic Church
- Aotearoa's answer to John Boyne's *A History of Loneliness* and *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, with shades of Ian Cross' *The God Boy*
- A topical issue, in light of the ongoing Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions
- A novel that explores racism, classism and a dark period in New Zealand's history
- A moving drama about the hubris of an institution that allows and enables child abuse while claiming moral authority, and the effects this abuse has on children and their communities

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## Target Market

- Fans of New Zealand contemporary fiction
- Readers interested in New Zealand history, particularly the social issues around child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church and the Dawn Raids
- Readers interested in topical stories, ethics, communities and morality

**For further information, review and interview enquiries, please contact:**

Escalator Press: [www.escalatorpress.co.nz](http://www.escalatorpress.co.nz),  
[writing@whitireia.ac.nz](mailto:writing@whitireia.ac.nz)

**Sales & distribution: Nationwide Books**

Andrew Tizzard, 03 312 1603  
[andrew@nationwidebooks.co.nz](mailto:andrew@nationwidebooks.co.nz)

