

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.

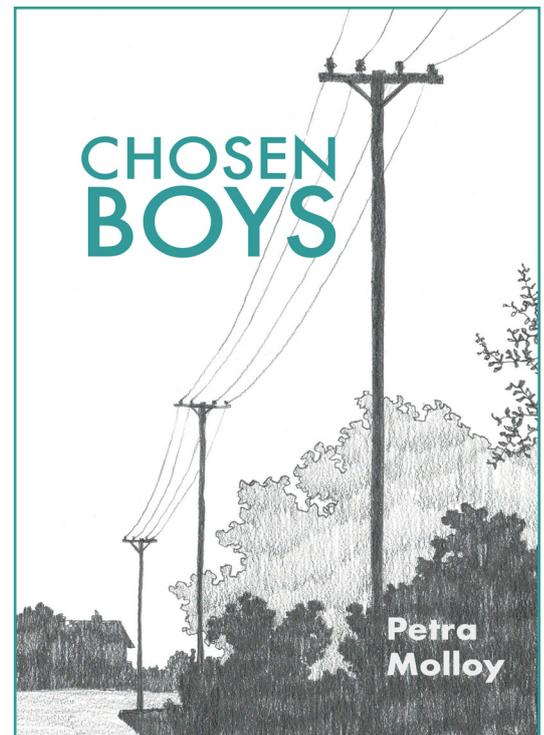
It is 1974 and seven-year-old Jack leads a carefree life, playing in his Auckland street. But when a new priest selects him to train as an altar boy, Jack's world is imperilled and he shrinks away from his community, his friends and his mother.

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

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