

PRESS RELEASE - 1 JUNE 2006

MADNESS HITS THE STREETS OF SYDNEY!

AUTHORITIES SUSPECT NEW BIOTERROR!

In the new novel *Prismatic* by Edwina Grey, these are today's headlines. But just what would it take to destroy Sydney?

Jacqueline Cooper is a history student with a stalled thesis and a less than admirable past. When she and biologist Daniel O'Connor uncover what appears to be a hundred-year-old murder site, it might be the break she needs. But the cache contains medical records, detailing outbreaks of madness and violence dating back to 1789, and news of the discovery is quickly covered up. As deaths start multiplying, she starts putting the pieces together—a dangerous ambition. For Daniel O'Connor may not be what he seems, and there are parties who do not want the truth to come out. They want Sydney locked down, terrorised and starving... and what happens then will be far, far worse.

About the Book

Prismatic (ISBN 0734409680) deals with our contemporary concerns of bioterrorism, security and the weak links in the chain. Edwina researched pandemics and the actual countermeasures in place in Sydney and other world cities, to create a plausible scenario for a possibility seldom raised: what if the next plague starts at home?

Plague is nothing new to Sydney. In 1789, a year after white settlement, smallpox decimated the local Iora people. In 1919, soldiers returning from World War I brought the Spanish Flu, that killed millions worldwide. Both earlier crises feature in the book, and both may have a link to the terrifying new scourge of Prism.

For Edwina, writing a novel was a natural step on from her research: "The real danger often lies in the actions of individuals, and that's something even our best plans may not be able to counter. *Prismatic* draws on that. It's a thriller, it's about these characters and how they fight to survive the disease in their own culture and time. They're ordinary people, but if they fail the consequences could be global. I wanted to take some of our old, human fears and really twist them."

About the Author

Edwina Grey is a computer programmer, who lives in Sydney with her partner, four cats and two corgies. She has a long-standing interest in history and the interaction of diseases with society, both of which come to the fore in *Prismatic*.

Edwina Grey has also written many stories and articles, as well as game material for **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**, **All Flesh Must Be Eaten** (from Eden Games Studios) and **Demon the Fallen** (from White Wolf).

Prismatic is published by Lothian Books and will be available in bookstores from June 2006. For more information, please contact David Carroll at davidc@tabula-rasa.info or Georgina Way at georgina_way@lothian.com.au

Read the first chapter of *Prismatic* free online
at www.tabula-rasa.info/EdwinaGrey

History does repeat

In the newly-formed penal colony of Sydney, plague and starvation are a constant threat. But this time isolation has a more sinister edge.

In 1913, a reclusive Sydney Doctor with a dark history and a fear of treating patients is drawn into a situation beyond even his control.

Beneath the bustling noise of present-day Sydney, Jacqueline's accidental discovery while on an archaeological dig unearths more than just a rotting corpse.

An ancient diary may hold the key to the recurring evil that had plagued Sydney... But can Jacqueline stay alive long enough to solve the mystery?

Prismatic, by Edwina Grey

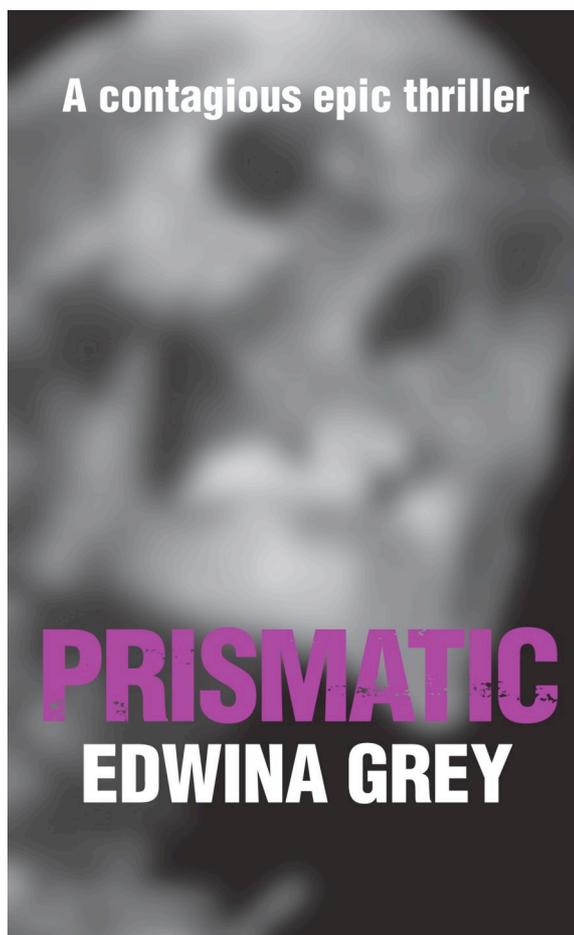
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Praise for short fiction

Kijin Tea, *Agog! Smashing Stories*
"Deft, delicate, and yet uncompromising..."
—Jonathan Strahan, *Locus*

The Bat's Boudoir, *Shadowed Realms#9*
"...both surreal and beautiful... The text is lyrical and assured."
—Andrew McKiernan, *HorrorScope*

The Grail, *Ticonderoga Online#6*
"...as stunning as they are horrifying... it really did tie up the story in a nice neat bow of blood and beauty."
—*HorrorScope*



A print quality version of the cover can be downloaded from:
www.tabula-rasa.info/EdwinaGrey/Prismatic.html

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