

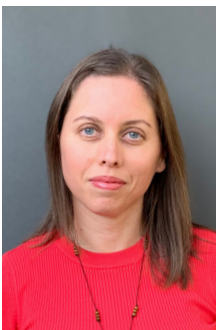
Hailstones Fell without Rain
Natalia Figueroa Barroso

'A lightning debut. Natalia Figueroa Barroso has written a thunderous story that resounds across generations.' Winnie Dunn

For lovers of Elizabeth Acevedo and Angie Cruz comes this extraordinary debut novel from Uruguayan–Australian author Natalia Figueroa Barroso. The power of *Hailstones Fell without Rain* lies in its pacy, multi-generational story and its memorable, wise and sharply funny characters.

Graciela is a Uruguayan migrant struggling to raise her three daughters in Western Sydney: her life feels like just one bill after another, and she's reaching breaking point. Chula, her elderly aunt, is still waiting for justice after living through the civic-military coup of 1973 in Uruguay. And Rita, Graciela's eldest daughter, wants to escape the constraints of her family but finds herself indelibly tied to the ghosts of her mother's past.

Dazzling, multilayered and often sharply funny, *Hailstones Fell without Rain* tells the story of these three indomitable women from one working-class family. As the novel moves across time and place, from Western Sydney to Uruguay and back again, we realise that buried secrets and family trauma will always resurface, but it's also possible for broken connections to mend.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Natalia Figueroa Barroso is a writer of Uruguayan descent with Charrúa, Yoruba and Iberian origins. She was born on Dharug Ngura, and was raised between her birthland and her homeland. She is a member of Sweatshop Literacy Movement and has degrees in communications, screenwriting and media production from UTS.

**BOOK DETAILS**

C-format paperback | 978 0 7022 6881 6
\$34.99

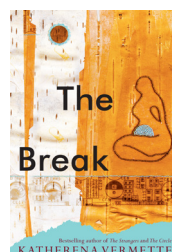
'*Hailstones Fell without Rain* toggles between situating readers in momentous world events and intimate moments within this particular family to craft a dazzling narrative.'

Elizabeth Acevedo

'A timeless tale of love, sisterhood, and the struggles and triumphs of immigrants that simply sizzles off the page.'

Sara M Saleh

FURTHER
READING



QUESTIONS OVER PAGE



Questions

1. *Hailstones Fell without Rain* is divided into four parts. Which one did you connect with the most and why?
2. What did you know about Uruguay's civic-military dictatorship and the country's Indigenous peoples before reading *Hailstones Fell without Rain*? How did the novel add to your knowledge of Latin American politics?
3. What context does the author give for Grachu's attitude towards Pancha's marriage and Rita's sexuality? How does this play out in our society more broadly?
4. Which of the minor characters stood out to you the most? Did you have a favourite?
5. Pathetic fallacy is a literary technique that attributes human feelings and emotions to inanimate things or animals. How does *Hailstones Fell without Rain* use this technique?
6. How do Grachu, Chula and Rita each feel about their jobs? What does the novel have to say about the role of work in our lives?
7. *Hailstones Fell without Rain* travels through different places, including Fairfield, el Cerro and Cabo Polonio. Which location felt most alive to you and why?
8. For Grachu and Rita, what does it mean to belong in Australia?
9. If you could give one of the main characters some life advice, what would it be?
10. What character traits, habits or ideas are passed down from generation to generation of las Ferreira women? What other parallels are there between the generations?
11. What were your initial impressions of the title *Hailstones Fell without Rain*? How does the meaning of the phrase (see p. 256) relate to the novel's themes?