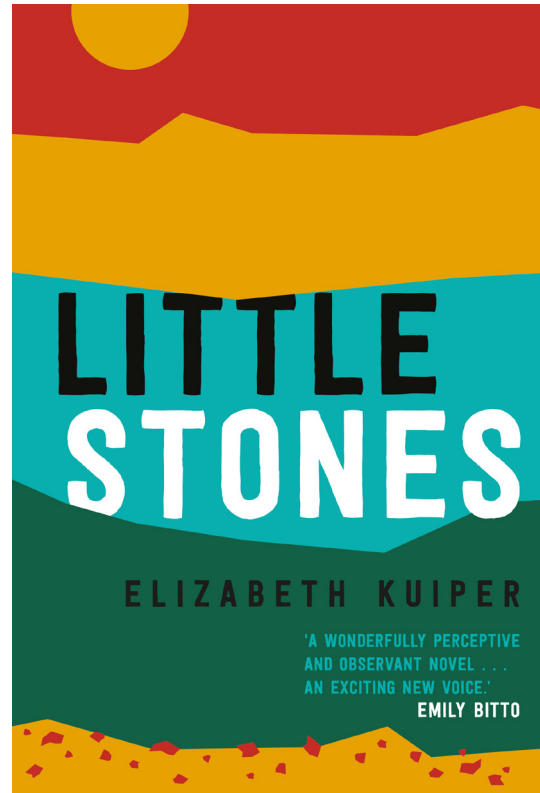


An autobiographical coming-of-age story set in Zimbabwe during a time of political turmoil by a talented new author.

Hannah lives in Zimbabwe during the reign of Robert Mugabe: it's a country of petrol queues and power cuts, food shortages and government corruption. Yet Hannah is lucky. She can afford to go to school, has never had to skip a meal, and lives in a big house with her mum and their Shona housekeeper. Hannah is wealthy, she is healthy, and she is white. But money can't always keep you safe.

As the political situation becomes increasingly unstable and tensions within Hannah's family escalate, her sheltered life is threatened. She is forced to question all that she's taken for granted, including where she belongs.



BOOK DETAILS

C-format paperback
978 0 7022 6254 8
\$29.95

Q U E S T I O N S

1. *Little Stones* explores complex issues of race, class, colonialism and the broader political turmoil within Mugabe's Zimbabwe through the lens of an eleven-year-old protagonist. How is Hannah's naivete retained while the book is addressing these political and cultural issues?
2. *Little Stones* is set in Zimbabwe during the early 2000s. Under Mugabe's regime, petrol, power and food are running out, taxes and inflation keep increasing, and land is being repossessed and 'redistributed'. How relevant are these themes currently, both globally and specifically for Australian society?
3. Hannah develops a strong relationship with her housekeeper, Gogo. What are some of the limitations of this relationship and how are they reflected in the novel?
4. Hannah's mother, Jane, is a strong role-model for her daughter but often struggles to juggle her competing roles. In what ways does Jane represent the tribulations and triumphs of single mothers?
5. How does Hannah's relationship with her father reveal some of the complexities of acrimonious divorces for the children, and also the wide range of forms of spousal abuse?
6. What do the conversations about the miscarriage from diametric perspectives tell us about the relationship between Hannah's parents? What toxic power dynamics were clearly at play during their marriage?

[MORE QUESTIONS OVER PAGE](#)

— Q U E S T I O N S C O N T . —

7. Place is a pivotal part of *Little Stones*. What are some memorable descriptions in the book that situate the reader in Zimbabwe?
8. How is humour used in the book as a counterweight to some of the more emotionally charged scenes?
9. *Little Stones* is a coming-of-age novel. How does Hannah's character and outlook shift as she undergoes the series of radical life changes throughout the book?
10. How do you interpret the title of the book, *Little Stones*, which is cited in this passage about pothole repair: 'They had lined the insides with offcuts of bricks and large rocks from nearby construction sites, and were filling the gaps with little stones.' (p. 253)

'Elizabeth Kuiper is a wonderfully perceptive and observant writer. In this story of a Zimbabwean childhood, she subtly captures the complexity of political and family turmoil through the eyes of a young girl. An exciting new voice.'

Emily Bitto, author of [The Strays](#)

'*Little Stones* is a compelling debut with a heartfelt, distinctive voice. Hannah is sharp and feisty, wise and funny, and shows a new way of seeing the world and this complex part of history.'

Laura Elvery, author of [Trick of the Light](#)

'Clearly carved from raw experience, this is a powerful elegy to youth in a place where the only thing worse than staying is leaving.'

Aidan Hartley

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth Kuiper grew up in Zimbabwe before immigrating to Perth with her mother. In 2016 she graduated from the University of Melbourne with a degree in politics and philosophy. An early extract of *Little Stones* was longlisted for the Richell Prize, received the Express Media prize for best work of fiction, and was published in *Award Winning Australian Writing* (2015). Elizabeth is currently studying law at the University of Melbourne.



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