

Media Release

CRYBABY

By Mabel Gibson

the hype

In 2024, West Australian youth Yamatji writer Mabel Gibson was awarded a creative development grant by DLGSC. The grant allowed Mabel to undertake an intensive 12-month writing and publishing mentorship with Night Parrot Press. Mabel wrote a collection of micro memoir (the first by an Aboriginal writer) which:

- * Explores the use of journal entries for writing micro memoir
- * Talks about her grandfather's experience during the Stolen Generations and shows the generational impact of the children born to victims of the Stolen Generations
- * Considers the pressure on Aboriginal youth to be defined by politics and trauma
- * Shows how family can provide an anchor for children experiencing mental health issues.

the book

CryBaby is a profoundly moving collection of 56 short memoirs. The collection explores themes and issues of mental health, identity, love, loss and girlhood from the point of view of a relatable young Indigenous woman and charts Mabel's life from age 2 to her current age of 25. The stories are set in Albany, Perth and Geraldton. The collection will leave you breathless and in awe of this exciting new talent in Australian writing.

the author

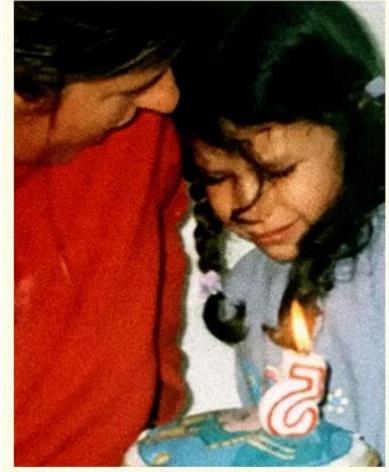
Mabel Gibson is a twenty-five-year-old Yamatji woman from Kinjarling/Albany. Her work has been published in *maar bidi: Next Generation Black Writing* (Magabala Books), all four Night Parrot Press anthologies and *Portside Review* (Centre for Stories), and she has sat on panels at various writers festivals. Mabel hopes to one day become a publisher and provide opportunities for other First Nations writers.



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



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MABEL GIBSON

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CryBaby is an incredibly generous and authentic collection of micro-memoir that offers a way to honour the layers of our younger selves. Mabel writes people and places that are equally vivid, and grief that is penetrating and honest.

Kathryn Glendhill-Tucker

An electric narrative of mental illness, identity, grief and love [...] *CryBaby* is luminous, devastating and deeply vulnerable. *CryBaby's* intricately woven memories brim with courage and truth. Embedded in these stories is an insistent heartbeat [...] to the power of unrelenting love. An astounding debut from an extraordinary new talent. Raw and wild and profoundly moving.

Gillian O'Shaughnessy

