

THE BORROWED LIFE OF FREDERICK FIFE

By Anna Johnston Michael Joseph, Fiction 368pp, \$34.99

The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife is a sincere, heartfelt, and laugh-out-loud debut from a writer who took the age-old advice to write what you know. When author Anna Johnston left a looming career in medicine to follow her heart into her grandfather's nursing home, she didn't do it in the usual way. Her role as the social support co-ordinator provided her much delight in shaking up their usual program. When she was unable to continue working in aged care, she began writing about it. The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife has a fantastic premise. Fred is on the brink of homelessness at the age of 82. But when he stumbles into a curious case of mistaken identity, Fred takes the place of cranky old Bernard at Wattle River Nursing Home. You can feel Johnston's love and warmth towards our aged community in this novel. It is a genuinely delightful read.