

New Literary Novel 'Lindsay's Role' Set for Release, Follows One Man's Struggle with Control and Family Breakdown

AUSTRALIA, July 30, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A new literary novel by Brisbane-based author P. J. Whitby is set for release soon, introducing readers to Lindsay Sael, a taxi driver in his mid-thirties whose fear of losing authority in his own household pushes him toward behaviour he does not fully understand until it costs him everything he has. Titled "Lindsay's Role," the book follows Lindsay through a domestic violence order brought by his wife Louise, strained ties with his brother Henry, and a father whose old-fashioned ideas about a man's place shaped him more than he realizes.

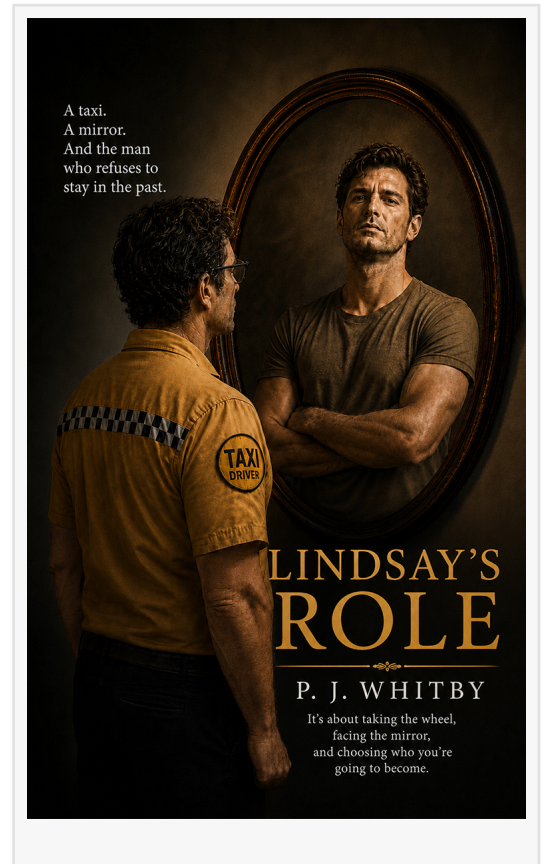
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Lindsay believes he is simply defending his position as head of the household. He tells himself he has done nothing wrong, that the courts favour his wife, and that his brother's mockery is proof of a world stacked against men like him. The novel sits inside Lindsay's own thinking as he works through these justifications, showing readers how insecurity, resentment, and a need for control can pass for strength in a man's own mind, long before he is able to name it for what it is.

"Lindsay believes his own excuses at first, and so does the reader," said P. J. Whitby. "That was important to me. I did not want to write a man who knows he is wrong and does it anyway. I wanted to write a man who has to slowly find that out."

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Much of the tension in the book comes from Lindsay's relationships with his brother Henry, who has built a comfortable life and sees Lindsay as a disappointment, and with the memory of their late father, a strict man who taught his sons that drink and control were part of being a man. Lindsay's sons, Mark and Liam, listen from the next room to the pattern their father has fallen



into, a detail the author uses to show how these behaviours are learned and passed down rather than appearing out of nowhere.

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The story took shape after P. J. Whitby spent years following media coverage of domestic violence, combined with his own experience of it and his observation of marriages that break down when one partner puts personal ambition ahead of the family. Rather than writing from a distance, the author chose to place readers inside the mind of the person causing harm, a decision he felt was necessary to show how ordinary the early stages of this behaviour can look.

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"Lindsay's Role" is structured so that readers first see Lindsay much the way he sees himself, before the narrative gradually shifts and lets his actions and their consequences come into fuller view. This slow turn is central to the book, and the author hopes it encourages readers to sit with a character they might otherwise be quick to judge, and to think about what leads a person to this point rather than simply where it ends.

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Written for readers between the ages of 19 and 90, "Lindsay's Role" is aimed at those who are drawn to literary fiction built around difficult, real-world subjects. The novel follows one family and one man's struggles to explore themes of masculinity, control, and the possibility of change.

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P. J. Whitby lives by the sea in Brisbane, Australia. He returned to study later in life and completed a university degree before turning his attention to writing. He lives on his own, without immediate family nearby, but keeps close friendships built through his love of literature and his enthusiasm for life. . "Lindsay's Role" is his second novel, following his debut, "Sister Hoods," and draws on both his personal history and his long-standing interest in the questions the book raises.

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With the release of "Lindsay's Role" approaching, P. J. Whitby hopes the book reaches readers who value fiction willing to sit inside a hard subject rather than look away from it, and that Lindsay's story adds something honest to how male violence is talked about and understood.

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