

# Learning to love *Blue*



The long-awaited sequel to 2017 Young Adult Storylines Notable Book Award Winner *Lonesome When You Go*

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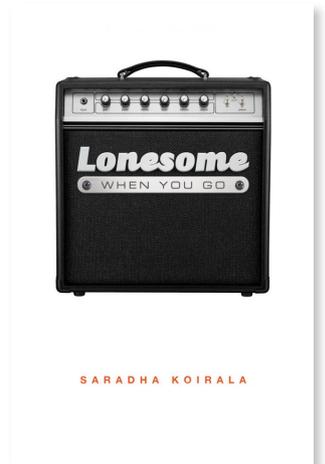
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*Long-listed for the 2021 Michael Gifkins Prize*

With Vox Pop and high school behind her, **18-year-old Paige arrives in Melbourne** with her suitcase and bass guitar; a copy of Bob Dylan's *Chronicles* and Joni Mitchell's *Blue* – a gift from her estranged mother that she's still learning to love.

Following in the footsteps of her musical heroes, all of whom left home to make it in 1960s New York, **Paige knows Melbourne's the new rock and roll capital of the world:** if she can't make it here, she can't make it anywhere. Besides, her high school crush Spike lives here...

Paige has always had music, but realises she has much to learn about relationships: **how to be vulnerable and how to be blue.**

This sequel develops the characters of *Lonesome When You Go* further as Paige leaves Wellington to make it big in the rock and roll capital of the world. *Learning to love Blue* adds more musical references to readers' playlists: **Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Alanis Morissette** and **Simon and Garfunkel** all feature, as Paige tries to find her place and make sense of the world.

[Listen to the soundtrack on Spotify!](#)



Author **Saradha Koirala** is a **New Zealand writer**, currently **living in Brunswick, Melbourne**. She has had three poetry collections published with Steele Roberts Aotearoa and The Cuba Press and, in 2017, *Lonesome When You Go* - her debut YA novel from Mākaro Press - **won a Storylines Notable Book Award**. Saradha has taught in high schools

around **Melbourne, Wellington** and **Porirua** and studied in **Nelson** and **Dunedin**. Learning to love *Blue* is her **first self-published title**.

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