



Finding Home
Shelley Banks

Book Club Kit

About the Book

After a devastating tragedy, Sophie Bennett leaves behind the life she once loved, retreating to the quiet rural town of Hillford in northwestern Queensland.

Seeking space to grieve and rebuild, she takes over a small bookstore and begins again.

But Hillford offers more than solitude. Through unexpected friendships, a welcoming community, and the possibility of new love, Sophie discovers that healing isn't about leaving the past behind—it's about learning how to live alongside it.

Finding Home is a heartfelt story of resilience, belonging, and second chances.

About the Author

Shelley Banks is a Brisbane-based author of contemporary women's fiction. With a background in communications and a passion for storytelling, she writes emotionally resonant novels that explore relationships, identity, and personal growth.

Her other works include:

- The Long Way Around
- The Diary and the Green Dress
- One Weekend

She is also the creator of September Sprouts, a blog featuring both fiction and non-fiction pieces designed to inspire readers to explore new perspectives.



Themes to Explore

- Grief and healing
- The meaning of home
- The power of community
- Self-discovery and reinvention
- Love after loss
- Letting go vs holding on
- Quiet resilience

Discussion Questions

1. Can we ever truly “start over,” or do we always carry our past with us?
2. How does grief shape Sophie’s identity throughout the novel?
3. In what ways does Hillford function as a character?
4. What role do routine and place play in healing?
5. Which relationship impacts Sophie the most, and why?
6. What does “healing” mean after reading this story?
7. How does the novel redefine the idea of home?
8. Are Sophie’s fears about loving again justified?
9. How does the town’s quiet awareness influence her journey?
10. Did the ending feel authentic? Why or why not?

AUTHOR Q&A

What inspired this story?

I wanted to explore what happens after loss—how people rebuild and find hope again.

Is Hillford based on a real place?

It's fictional but inspired by rural Australian towns and their strong sense of community.

What message do you hope readers take away?

Healing isn't about moving on; it's about becoming someone who can hold what happened without being held back by it.

Reader Reflection

- What does “home” mean to you?
- When have you experienced a personal fresh start?
- What small routines bring comfort to your life?
- How do you define resilience?

Creative Engagement

- Write a letter to Sophie at the start of her journey
- Create a playlist that reflects the novel’s emotional arc
- Imagine Sophie’s life one year after the ending

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**Home isn't just where we've been—
it's something we create.**

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