



# Otherhood

## *Essays on being childless, childfree and child-adjacent*

EDITED BY ALIE BENGE, LIL O'BRIEN AND KATHRYN VAN BEEK



\$39.99

CATEGORY: Non-fiction, family

ISBN: 978-1-99-101674-4

ESBN: 978-1-99-101675-1

THEMA: JHBK, VFVJ 1MBN

BISAC: FAM000000, FAM034000,

HEA045000, LCO010000

PUBLISHER: Massey University Press

IMPRINT: Massey University Press

PUBLISHED: May 2024

PAGE EXTENT: 308

FORMAT: Limpbound

SIZE: 234 x 153mm

RIGHTS: World

EDITORS' RESIDENCES: London, United Kingdom; Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and Ōtepoti Dunedin, Aotearoa

New Zealand

ISBN 978-1-99-101674-4



9 781991 016744

### INTERROGATING: AM I MOTHER? OR AM I OTHER?

In Aotearoa the number of people who will never have children is growing — and they're pushing back against the narrative that if they don't, their lives will be somehow 'less than'. *Otherhood's* essays are by writers who've felt on the outside looking in, who've lived unexpected lives, and who've given the finger to social expectations. Some chose to be childfree, some didn't get to choose, and some — through bereavement or blended family dynamics — ask themselves: Am I a mother or am I other?

Thought-provoking, moving and often hilarious, *Otherhood* opens a more inclusive conversation about what makes a fulfilling life.

### ABOUT THE EDITORS

**Alie Benge** is the author of the essay collection *Ithaca*. She was joint winner of the 2017 *Landfall* essay competition, holds a Master of Arts in Creative Writing from the IIML, and is the essays editor for *takahē* magazine.

**Kathryn van Beek** was the 2023 Robert Burns Fellow at the University of Otago. Her articles about infertility have appeared on *The Spinoff* and in the *New Zealand Herald*. She has written for the award-winning *Misconceptions* web series, and was the driving force behind the change to the Holidays Act that provides bereavement leave for miscarriage.

**Lil O'Brien** is an internationally award-winning copywriter (as Lil Cameron), who has written for many of New Zealand's top corporates. Her 2020 memoir *Not that I'd Kiss a Girl* has had great impact on Aotearoa's LGBTQ+ community, and is celebrated as a resource for people who are queer, questioning, or who want to understand the LGBTQ+ people in their lives better.

### SALES POINTS

- Powerful essays by a range of New Zealand writers, from well-known to emerging
- Of huge value to a wide range of readers
- Candid, empathetic, generous and courageous