

STONE GIRL

ELENI HALE

Penguin | RRP \$19.99 | 30 April 2018

Inspired by true events, this is a heartbreaking story of raw survival and hope, and the children society likes to forget. A stunning and unforgettable debut YA.

I'm at the police station. There's blood splattered across my face and clothes. In this tiny room with walls the colour of winter sky I hug a black backpack full of treasures. Only one thing is certain . . . no one can ever forgive me for what I've done.

An unspeakable event changes everything for twelve-year-old Sophie. No more Mum, school or bed of her own. She's made a ward of the state and grows up in a volatile world where kids make their own rules, adults don't count and the only constant is change.

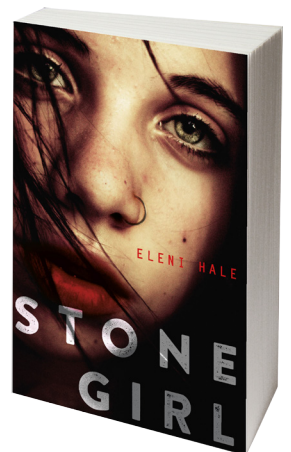
Until one day she meets Gwen, Matty and Spiral. Spiral is the most furious, beautiful boy Sophie has ever known. And as their bond tightens she finally begins to confront what happened in her past.

"A heartbreaking, authentic and exceptionally written story"

- **Fleur Ferris**, author of *Wreck*

"Gripping, eloquent, and realer than real, Stone Girl will break your heart into a million tiny pieces, then quietly put it back together again"

- **Nicole Hayes**, author of *A Shadow's Breath*



ABOUT

Eleni Hale has spent the previous decade as a journalist and communications strategist. She was a reporter at the *Herald Sun*, has been published across the News Corp mastheads and has ghost-written opinion pieces for *SMH*, *Mamamia* and *Daily Life* to name a few. Her piece entitled *fig* was released on audio and published in a hardcopy collection as part of the ABC's *In their branches* project. Eleni has received three major awards through Varuna. She is based in Melbourne, and *Stone Girl* is her first novel.



For further information please contact:

Tina Gumnior

Penguin Random House

+61 (3) 8537 4584

tgumnior@penguinrandomhouse.com.au



Penguin
Random House
Australia

707 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3008

p +61 3 8537 4599 f +61 3 8537 4699

penguinrandomhouse.com.au

Penguin Random House Australia Pty Ltd ABN 28 004 815 703

STONE GIRL

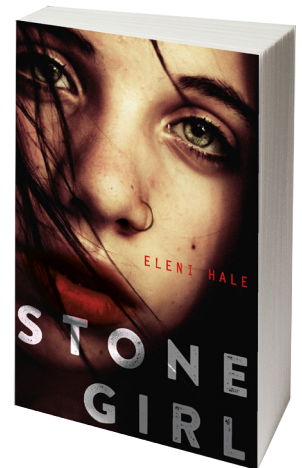
ELENI HALE

Penguin | RRP \$19.99 | 30 April 2018

Author's Note

While this is a work of fiction it was inspired by real life and a culture I knew too well. I was one of the lucky ones because I got out, I went back to school and struggled my way out of the margins of society. I became a journalist and tried to research and prove all I knew was broken with the system. While stories about Victoria's group home system leak out now and again I found when it came to the truth about state kids the government was, and still is, in lockdown. There isn't much the outside world can uncover about the voiceless and unwanted children. And when it comes to teenagers, few really care. So many people I know were judged, unloved and ended up in prison or worse. They were survivors of uncaring or abusive parents and they lived in a system designed to neglect them.

Compelling, involving and beautifully written, *Stone Girl* is the powerful and moving story of twelve-year-old Sophie, who becomes a ward of the state.



ABOUT

Eleni Hale has spent the previous decade as a journalist and communications strategist. She was a reporter at the Herald Sun, has been published across the News Corp mastheads and has ghost-written opinion pieces for SMH, Mamamia and Daily Life to name a few. Her piece entitled *fig* was released on audio and published in a hardcopy collection as part of the ABC's In their branches project. Eleni has received three major awards through Varuna. She is based in Melbourne, and *Stone Girl* is her first novel.

For further information please contact:

Tina Gumnior

Penguin Random House

+61 (3) 8537 4584

tgumnior@penguinrandomhouse.com.au



Penguin
Random House
Australia

707 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3008

p +61 3 8537 4599 f +61 3 8537 4699

penguinrandomhouse.com.au

Penguin Random House Australia Pty Ltd ABN 28 004 815 703