

Dean Cross, Pauline - A Portrait.

I overheard the adults talking and that's the mean lady there on the telly. Mum said she doesn't like that my friend's dad is a party member, even though we are really far away from Queensland and it makes no sense to me how you can even go to her party when we aren't in the same state. I think she used to run a fish and chip shop. And now the yucky dry cold chips and the stale smell of old oil when you put the rubbish in the bin reminds me of her.

Those things she says pouring out like something you could never have anticipated but actually thinking about it? It's always been there. It's always been there as an undercurrent. Just now it's overflowing and we can all see it. Thing is, the kids are picking it up, every little thing she says. Like the way there's always water in the creek, but every couple of years they overflow. Flood plain markers on the banks yet because it's been a drought for so long we don't imagine it's possible. But some people remember the big rains and they know it's a trickle down effect.