

MAISIE GREENE IS DEAD.

Or at least she was, until a boy named Jack decided to resurrect her without her permission.

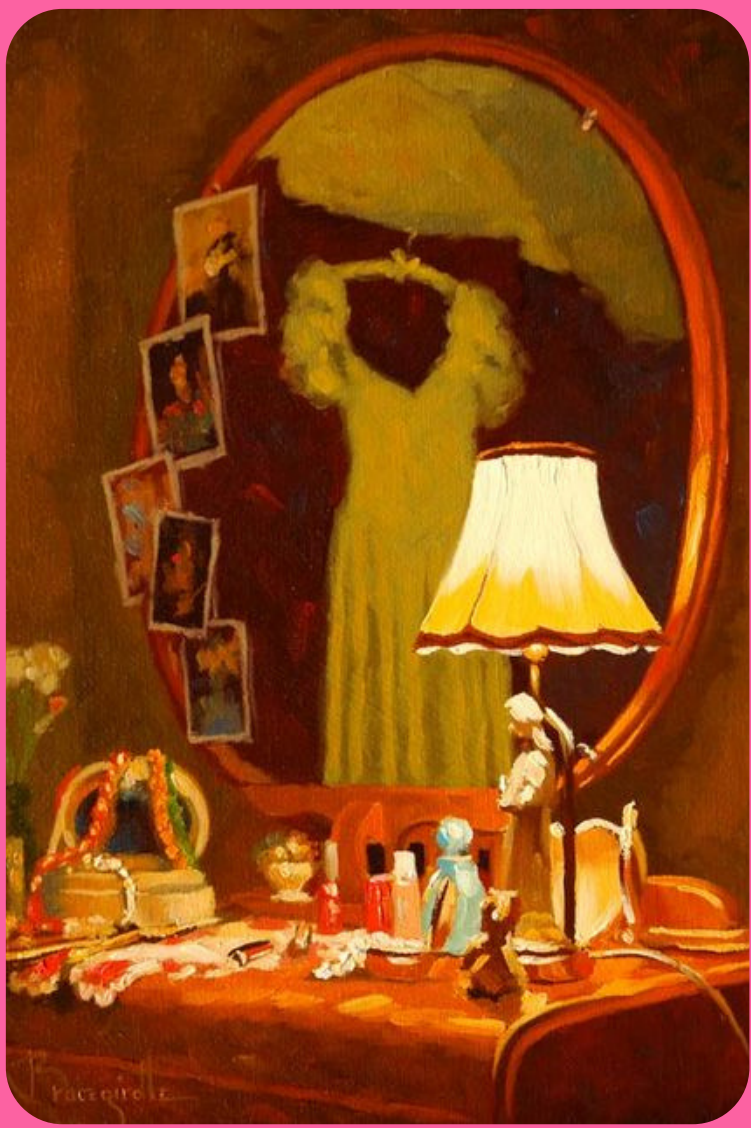
AN AUSTRALIAN GOTHIC,  
TRAGICOMEDY, EXPLORING  
CHRONIC ILLNESS AND  
DEATH.

# Cactus



by Millie Donaldson





Terminally ill, and perfectly content with being dead, 19 year old, Maisie rankles against Jack's attempts to convince her that life is still worth living. Jack's attempts to convince Maisie - even as her health rapidly deteriorates - are intercut with scenes from an eventful New Year's Eve party where Jack and Maisie first met and scenes following Maisie's family as they try to uncover who stole her body. A coming-of-age story for one is a coming-of-death for the other as Jack faces the consequences of his rash resurrections and Maisie reckons with the impact of her life and death on her loved ones.

Cactus appeals to Gen Z and younger millennials, growing up in the wake of terrorist attacks, climate disaster, and the covid pandemic, we're an incredibly morbid and nihilistic generation. Death has become a taboo subject despite being a fact of life and open discussions about death, sickness, and dying are few and far between. Death and love are the two constants in any story worth telling. My goal is to not make death less scary or less sad but to make it less silent, to make it less lonely. To hold your hand as we all barrel towards that inevitable unknown.



## About the Writer



As a disabled writer living with a rather impressive list of improbably rare genetic mutations, Millie's work tends to deal with the abnormal and fantastical, often dealing with themes of disability and transformation. Millie has a Bachelor's Degree in Screenwriting from the Victorian College of The Arts and continues to be mentored by Rob Connolly (The Dry, Paper Planes) and Joel Anderson (Lake Mungo). She is also starring in the Netflix mini-series: Boy Swallows Universe. Represented by Daniel Scharf at Profile Creative.