

TSSMTM
Creating VCE Success

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES
Like a House on Fire

Text guide by: Felicity Gordon

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SAMPLE

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AUTHOR NOTES

Cate Kennedy is an Australian author based in Benalla, Victoria.

As a child, Kennedy loved reading short stories, including those written by Roald Dahl. Her writing career began as a teenager when she won the school section of *The Canberra Times* short story award. She went on to study professional writing at the University of Canberra but found that this experience stifled her passion and enthusiasm for writing. '[I] stopped writing, as everyone does; analysis takes all the joy and mystery out of it.'¹

She didn't get back to writing short stories again until she was in her thirties and working as a librarian in Daylesford. It was at work in 1994 when she stumbled across a flyer for the *Scarlet Stiletto short story prize* and thought she would have a go at writing crime stories. She won first prize for her story *Everything \$2.00 On This Rack*.

She continued writing poetry and short stories and, after a two-year stay in Mexico, wrote a travel memoir entitled *Sing, and Don't Cry*. After returning to Melbourne, her relationship with the partner who had gone with her to Mexico came to an end. Eventually she married again and moved to her husband's farm near Benalla.

In 2006 two events transpired in Kennedy's personal life which would have a profound impact on her: she gave birth to a child, a daughter, and that same year her father passed away. This was also the year she began to be recognised for her literary work.

¹ Sullivan, J (16th September, 2006) "Back to Her Roots", *The Age*, accessed online at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/books/back-to-her-roots/2006/09/14/1157827093579.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap1>