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'Riveting, atmospheric and tautly written – a remarkable debut...' – Michael Robotham

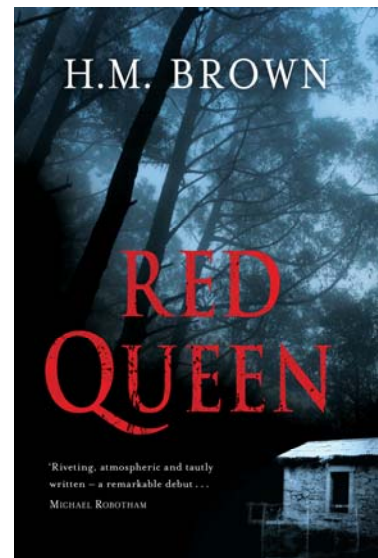
RED QUEEN

H.M. BROWN

Viking ... rrp \$29.95

Publication/embargo date: 31 August 2009

'...I caught a glimpse of the wild-white of his eyes and was close enough to understand the depth of his anxiety. It was all to do with isolation; just the two of us; no emergency number to call, no neighbour to hear, no community, no society, no law. Rohan pulled up the neck of his jumper to cover his nose and mouth; he nodded at me to do the same.'



After two months of isolation in the Australian bush, two brothers discover a new threat – a woman alone.

Shannon and Rohan Scott have retreated to their family's cabin in the Australian wilderness to escape a virus-ravaged world. But when Denny Cassidy slips under their late-night watch they begin to realise that surviving the world's most deadly virus, Red Queen, might mean nothing if they can't survive an intriguing girl.

In this superb debut, three remarkably drawn characters fuel an utterly compelling read. They are stripped bare and played against each other in a desperate game of survival and search for humanity where there are no promises and no rules.

Bold, stylish and seductive, *Red Queen* is a character driven, psychological thriller in which we're never quite sure who is playing who... it's full of sexual tension, suspense and danger.

H.M. Brown lives in country Victoria with her husband and two children, and together they run a small farm. She has been writing novels and screen plays for seven years, and during this period wrote *Red Queen*. Before settling down she worked and lived in various remote places around Australia. She spent her childhood in Tasmania, growing-up in a convict built house in Campbell Town. In her late twenties she was involved in a devastating farm accident, and now lives with challenges of a spinal injury.

H.M. Brown is available for interview

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Kate Kyriakou, Publicist, Penguin Group (Australia) on 03 9811 2498 or kate.kyriakou@au.penguin.com

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