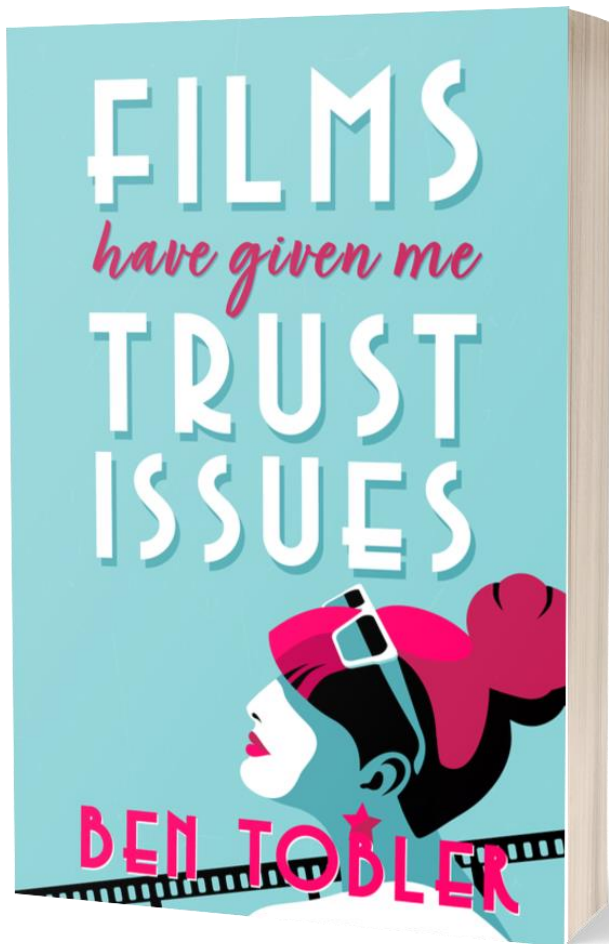


Films Have Given Me Trust Issues

Written by Ben Tobler



NO SELF-BELIEF, NO DIRECTION, A JOB SHE HATES AND A LOVE LIFE COMPARABLE TO THAT OF A DEAD FISH...

Hannah feels like a red-hot mess.

At forty, Hannah lives alone, depends far too much on booze and prescription painkillers, and has her mother breathing down her neck about 'finding the perfect son-in-law'. Her love for Hollywood happy endings is her only source of comfort in the chaos of reality.

That is until serendipity brings beautiful, mysterious, and seemingly perfect Katie into her life.

A fast friendship forms over drunken escapades, weekends away and shared demons. Despite her new lease on life, Katie's friendship forces Hannah to confront all that she knows – about herself, her past and her world.

Hollywood happy endings may not be all they seem...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ben is a 42-year-old married father of three living the dream in the small community of Uralla, NSW. He is a high school English and history teacher by trade who has recently transitioned to a new position at the University of New England as a project manager based out of the Oorala Aboriginal Centre. He has a master's degree in history and a desire to pursue further research opportunities in the future. This is his first full novel based around personal experiences, encounters and, most importantly, people. He is an avid reader and a self-proclaimed football tragic.

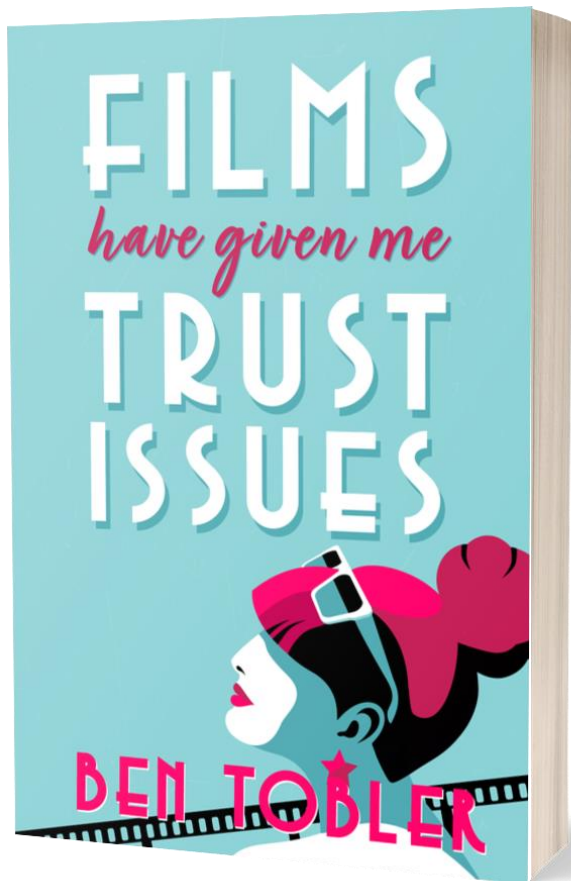
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Audience	General
Author Location	Uralla, NSW

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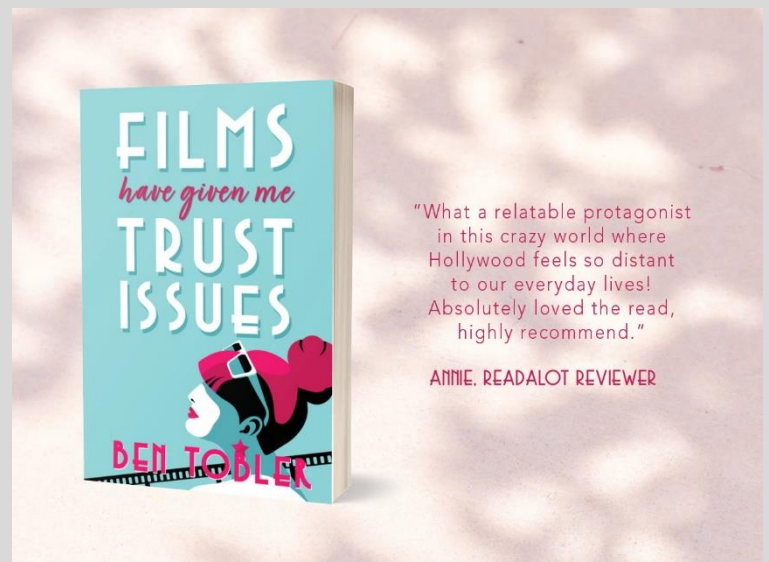


A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE *FILMS HAVE GIVEN ME TRUST ISSUES*? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

This book was a really bizarre journey that started as a little project to provide me with an escape from teaching, which I was struggling with at the time. I wanted to write about me, but I also didn't want to write about me, so I created the character of Hannah. She is, essentially, twenty years of my life exaggerated and thrown into the body of a 40-something-year-old woman trying to find out who she is. At this point in my life, despite having settled with a lovely wife and three kids, I was still finding my place in the world and dealing with much of what Hannah was facing.

I saw Hannah as a vessel for telling my story while distancing myself enough from her that I felt comfortable sharing the journey. Sharing her experiences with mental health issues was especially cathartic. I never expected this to go anywhere, and it was only after sharing the first parts with a close friend that I was told that I should try and take it further. That freedom of no expectations really allowed me to push the limits and explore the challenges of writing a narrative of the life of a woman. Hannah was, in many ways, inspired by some of my strong, yet eccentric, friends and the day-to-day struggles they went through.



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