

There was a place that would have been liveable if you never looked at the mould on the ceiling. At least the balcony was okay. I can't remember the view, only the pot plant suffocating under cigarette butts. Perhaps I was already conditioned to never look up.

- *Thank you for the opportunity to consider your work, but I am sorry to say that I do not think this material would be right for me, and therefore I would not make your most effective advocate. Please remember this is just one agent's opinion, and there may well be other agents who feel differently.*

29th May 2022

I'm halfway through this year, and I can safely say that I've accomplished nothing, except the perfect apartment. For one reason, a skylight in the middle of the bathroom. So that I can watch the cerulean blue turn slate grey and hear it tap against the window to be let in, before filling the room with its percussion and speckled shadows. I was accepted for where I live. I just needed to find a place of residency for my writing.

As all rejections sound the same, I hope the acceptance email for my book sounds like the one for my apartment.

- *Congratulations, and welcome to your new home*



ABOUT JOSEPHINE RENEE

Josephine Renee (she/her) is a 22-year-old novelist based in Meanjin Brisbane who has just finished her second year at QUT majoring in creative writing. She has volunteered at Brisbane Writers Festival 2022 - 2023 and is the 2023 recipient of the Kelly van Meurs Memorial Scholarship. She has travelled Europe and North Africa for two years, spent a year and a half in the USA, Canada, Cuba, and Mexico, and has recently returned from Paris. When not gaining world-building inspiration, she dedicates her time to writing and illustrating, with a dedicated readership on her webcomic Horn-Nhei. She has work published in Glass. Find her on Instagram @josephine_renee_official