Cristina Sanders grew up in the family’s Gateway Bookshop in Wellington, where all books were tested on children. She went on to work for some years in book marketing and publishing both in New Zealand and London, and has recently begun writing novels.

Her YA manuscript, Displaced, inspired by her family’s immigration from Norway in the 1870s, won the 2020 Storylines Tessa Duder Award. Jerningham is her first novel for adults.

Cristina lives in Hawke’s Bay with her family, where she runs on the hills and, whenever she can, sails away on tall ships.

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JERNINGHAM
Cristina Sanders

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SELLING POINTS
• Compelling account of early New Zealand
• Impeccably researched historical novel
• Mandy Hager calls it ‘a spectacular debut’
• Award-winning writer to watch
• Author with online and social media presence

Edward Jerningham Wakefield was the wild-child of the Wakefield family that set up the New Zealand Company to bring the first settlers to this country. His story is told through the eyes of bookkeeper Arthur Lugg, who is tasked by Colonel William Wakefield to keep tabs on his brilliant but unstable nephew.

As trouble brews between settlers, government, missionaries and Māori over land and souls and rights, Jerningham is at the heart of it, blurring the line between friendship and exploitation and spinning the hapless Lugg in his wake.

Alive with historical detail, Jerningham tells a vivid and important story of Wellington’s colonial beginnings and of a charismatic young man’s rise and inevitable fall.

“A spectacular debut that brings us an immersive, intelligent and well researched insight into the early days of New Zealand’s European settlement. Cristina Sanders announces herself as a writer to watch. Highly recommended.”

— Mandy Hager