



COVER ART BY KIM LOWE

Lee Murray is a third-generation Chinese New Zealander and multi-award-winning author, poet and anthology editor. She has been awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement for Fiction 2023 and been made an NZSA Honorary Literary Fellow. The manuscript of *Fox Spirit on a Distant Cloud* won Lee the Grimshaw–Sargeson Fellowship at the development stage and the NZSA Laura Solomon Cuba Press Prize when it was complete. She's won five Bram Stoker Awards, awarded by the international Horror Writers Association. Lee lives in the Bay of Plenty with her husband and son.

## FOX SPIRIT ON A DISTANT CLOUD

LEE MURRAY

To be released April 2024

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138 pp • soft cover • stories | prose poetry

- Chinese New Zealand author lifts the lid on hidden stories of the women of the Chinese diaspora in Aotearoa, using poetry and mythology and drawing on her skill as a horror writer.
- Manuscript won the NZSA Laura Solomon Cuba Press Prize 2023 for imaginative, audacious writing.
- Lee Murray awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement 2023.
- Author to feature at the Auckland Writers Festival and Featherston Booktown 2024.

Wellington, 1923, and a sixty-year-old woman hangs herself in a scullery; ten years later another woman 'falls' from the second floor of a Taranaki tobacconist; soon afterwards a young mother in Taumarunui slices the throat of her newborn with a cleaver.

All are women of the Chinese diaspora, who came to Aotearoa for a new life and suffered isolation and prejudice in silence. Chinese Pākehā writer Lee Murray has taken the nine-tailed fox spirit *húli jīng* as her narrator to inhabit the skulls of these women and others like them and tell their stories.

Winner of the NZSA Laura Solomon Cuba Press Prize, *Fox Spirit on a Distant Cloud* is an audacious blend of biography, mythology, horror and poetry that transcends genre to illuminate lives in the shadowlands of our history.

*'You don't belong here, don't belong, don't belong ...' the atua whisper, and yet in Murray's sumptuous prose, English, te reo and Chinese coalesce. Silenced voices – bloodied, broken – cry from the margins. Lest we forget. —Alison Wong*



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