



Janette Turner Hospital

JANETTE TURNER HOSPITAL

Janette Turner Hospital was born on 12 November 1942 to Adrian Charles Turner and Elsie (Morgan) Turner in Melbourne. In 1950 her family moved to Brisbane where she attended school at Wilston State Primary School and later Mitchelton State High School before going to Queensland University and Kelvin Grove Teachers College during 1961-1962. During 1963-1966 she taught at Mossman and Brisbane and she completed her B.A. (Qld) in 1965.

Married to Clifford George Hospital on 5 February 1965, she and her husband, then a Methodist minister in Queensland, left Australia in 1967 for Harvard University where Clifford completed his Ph.D. in the field of comparative religion. While at Harvard, she worked at Harvard University Library and had two children — Geoffrey (1967) and Cresida (1969).

In 1971 the family moved to Kingston, Ontario, Canada. During the next five years she completed an M.A. (Mediaeval Literature) and was awarded a Canada Council Doctoral Fellowship which she used to complete her course work for her Ph.D. During this time she also undertook various teaching jobs at high schools, Queen's University, St Lawrence College, and maximum and medium-security penitentiaries for men. In 1977 she and her family lived in India during her husband's sabbatical.

Her first short story "Waiting" was published in 1978 in *The Atlantic Monthly* and received an "Atlantic First" citation. *The Ivory Swing*, her first novel, was published in 1982 and won the Seal Award (\$50,000) in Canada. She was also awarded first prize for magazine fiction from the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Letters in 1982. *The Tiger in the Tiger Pit*, her second novel, was published in 1983 and followed by *Borderline* in 1985. She has returned to Australia a number of times with increasing frequency since 1984. In 1985 she was awarded an Australia Council Literary Board Fellowship to travel in Australia for work on her fourth novel. She has been three times writer-in-residence at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston: first during 1985-1986; during winter and spring in 1987; and during winter and spring 1989. The first edition of *Dislocations*, a collection of her short stories, was published in 1986. Her work has been anthologised in several collections including *Latitudes: New Writing from the North* (1986), *The Australian Bedside Book* (1987), and *More Stories by Canadian Women* (1987).

Her writing has been nominated for various awards. Recently she has been short-listed for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards for *Borderline* (1986), won second prize in the C.B.C. short story competi-

tion in Canada for “Queen of Pentacles, Nine of Swords” (1987), and in 1988 won the Fiction Award of the Fellowship of Australian Writers for *Dislocations*. *Dislocations* was also short-listed in 1988 for the Australian National Book Award and won the Torgi Award, Canadian Association for the Blind. *Charades*, her fourth novel, was published in 1988 and short-listed in 1989 for the Miles Franklin Award.

Janette Turner Hospital is in Australia during July to December in 1989 as writer-in-residence, first at University of Sydney, and subsequently at both La Trobe University and Monash University in October.

Ron Store