AUTHOR Q&A

Where did the idea for A Thousand Miles from Home come from?

Ideas rarely come to me fully formed. They're usually an odd combination of memories, imagination and observation. Something I see, hear, read or remember clicks in my mind, and a story begins to take shape. A Thousand Miles from Home grew from that process and from my interest in people who have reached turning points in their lives.

What is the novel really about?

On the surface, it's Sam Parker's journey. Underneath that, it's about belonging. Sam has spent twelve years trying to find his place in the world. Eventually, he has to confront the possibility that finding where you belong isn't simply about finding a place. Sometimes it's about making peace with yourself and the people you've left behind.

Why are redemption and reconciliation important themes in your fiction?

I'm fascinated by people who have made mistakes and have to decide what they're going to do next. None of us can change what's already happened. What interests me is whether someone can acknowledge the past, change direction and build something better.

What do you hope readers take away from the novel?

Hope. Sam's road isn't easy, and he doesn't always make the right choices. But I want readers to come away believing that circumstances can change and that sometimes the possibility of forgiveness or a second chance exists even when we don't expect it.