



# Redemption Point

*Candice Fox*

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**Redemption Point** Candice Fox

**#1 New York Times bestselling author Candice Fox delivers a compulsive new crime thriller, which sees Ted Conkaffey once again teaming up with an unlikely partner - this time the father of the girl he was accused of abducting . . .**

When former police detective Ted Conkaffey was wrongly accused of abducting 13-year-old Claire Bingley, he hoped the Queensland rainforest town of Crimson Lake would be a good place to disappear. But nowhere is safe from Claire's devastated father.

Dale Bingley has a brutal revenge plan all worked out - and if Ted doesn't help find the real abductor, he'll be its first casualty.

Meanwhile, in a dark roadside hovel called the Barking Frog Inn, the bodies of two young bartenders lie on the beer-sodden floor. It's Detective Inspector Pip Sweeney's first homicide investigation - complicated by the arrival of private detective Amanda Pharrell to 'assist' on the case. Amanda's conviction for murder a decade ago has left her with some odd behavioural traits, top-to-toe tats - and a keen eye for killers . . .

For Ted and Amanda, the hunt for the truth will draw them into a violent dance with evil. Redemption is certainly on the cards - but it may well cost them their lives . . .

**'Definitely a writer to watch' Harlan Coben**

**'A bright new star of crime fiction' James Patterson**

## Redemption Point Details

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Author : Candice Fox

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# From Reader Review Redemption Point for online ebook

## Rob says

Number two in the Crimson Lake series.

This is the third book I have read by author Candice Fox and they just keep getting better with each new release.

Ted Conkaffey and Amanda Pharrell are back in the thick of things again.

Two young people are shot dead in cold blood and right from the get go the bereaved father wants Ted and Amanda on the case.

In the meantime, Ted gets beaten to within an inch of his life by the the father of Ted's supposed rape and torture victim. The father has been looking for Ted since the day Ted was released from prison and now he has found him. A very uneasy truce is arrived at when Ted give the father some information that points at someone else for his daughter's rape.

Ted is facing a new accusation of sexual abuse of a minor and has to go to Sydney to answer the new charges.

The book is really two thrillers in one. Amanda's in Crimson Lake trying to solve the two murders there and Ted is in Sydney trying to clear his name and catch the person who has ruined his life.

The diary written by the pedophile, who is responsible for making Ted's life a living hell, I found really interesting. The reader is slowly introduced to the diary over the course of the book. It's a good insight into the working of a pedophile's mind. The self loathing he feels for himself. The efforts he goes to try to prevent these thoughts for being foremost in his head. But the need is too strong.

This is a thrilling well crafted read.

I'm glad to say that whilst Amanda infuriated me in Crimson Lake I felt a lot more empathy for her this time round.

Highly recommended.

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## Theresa Smith Writes says

I thoroughly enjoyed the private detective duo of Ted Conkaffey and Amanda Pharrell last year in Crimson Lake, and this next instalment in the series, Redemption Point, proves that when it comes to writing crime thrillers, Candice Fox is quite simply, untouchable.

I am by no means a prolific crime fiction reader, but I do enjoy a good thriller and return to the genre regularly. I've read enough of them to know what makes a good plot and what falls flat, although I'll freely admit that I almost never guess the outcome of a good plot twist, which no doubt enhances my enjoyment immensely. In Redemption Point, the plot is as twisted as a gnarled tree, but in hindsight, once all is revealed, you realise that Candice left plenty of clues along the way – but they were woven so neatly into the narrative that I never picked up on their significance at the time. Candice is good like that, leading you here and there and back around again. It makes for a fast paced and engaging read right the way through with plenty of shocked face moments.

Where this series really excels though, is in its character development and the relationships between these characters. Amanda Pharrell has quickly become a favourite of mine. So inappropriately honest and cheerful

come hell or high water, she lifts every scene she's in, along with the ones in which she's only mentioned. The rhymes she makes up are hilarious, her quirks and habits endearing, if not inexplicable. Ted's simple acceptance of her exactly as she is forms the basis of a strong connection between the two, a friendship that they both depend on in equal measure. Amanda has a way of forcing herself into the lives of those around her, even when they are resistant; a bit like a mouse squeezing into a house through a tiny crack. You give her an inch and she'll take a mile. In *Crimson Lake*, she did this with Ted; in *Redemption Point*, she does it with Detective Inspector Pip Sweeney. I liked the connection developed between these two women. Amanda has many layers and more empathy than she is given credit for. And she's wicked smart too!

Ted is a character who pushes the boundary of normal endurance. Entirely innocent of everything except being in the wrong place at the wrong time, his situation is a stunning example of trial by media in a never ending cycle. I really like Ted and feel deeply sorry for him. Candice has shaped his character well, and I'm keen to see where she takes him as the series progresses. *Redemption Point* sees Ted forced into a collaboration with the father of his alleged victim. This was so well done, razor sharp tension and a thick veil of mistrust on both sides made for some interesting interactions between the two. We also get to know Ted in his old home ground in this novel, which allowed for character growth opportunities only hinted at in the first instalment. Connections with old work colleagues, mobsters, his wife, and even his daughter – which made me cry! We got to know Ted a whole lot better in *Redemption Point*, and I loved every moment of it.

And then there's the creepy side to this novel, the journal of Claire Bingley's actual attacker, a paedophile named Kevin. His descriptions of his thoughts and actions gave me goosebumps, and not in a good way. But it was certainly convincing, that's for sure.

I'm well and truly hooked on these characters now and hope for a series with many more instalments to come. Candice Fox is in a class of her own and I can't stop raving about this series. If you haven't read *Crimson Lake*, you could still read *Redemption Point* and know what's going on, but of course the experience will be enhanced if you read them both in order.

*Redemption Point* is a great pick for book clubs!

Thanks is extended to Penguin Random House Australia for providing me with a copy of *Redemption Point* for review.

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**Kirsty &#x1f4da;&#x1f4d6;♥? says**

This is the second in the *Crimson Lake* series. In my review of that book my main concern was that the book was bleak. This one is equally bleak but I'm better prepared this time. It's the subject matter; Ted Conkaffey is trying to rebuild his life and prove that he didn't rape and assault a 13 year old girl. That's the driver throughout the book.

We've added extras in this one with the diary of the guy who really is a paedophile. Credit for trying to get into the mindset of that person. It's not something I think I could have done. It's well written and doesn't condone the behaviour but there's elements of trying to understand. I did Childhood Studies a few years ago now and had to watch a TV documentary on these people and the diary element of the book kind of echoed the way they spoke and thought. Hard to do in fiction and as uncomfortable as it made me feel that I think is just down to the excellent writing.

Amanda comes much more into her own in this book as she is left to work the murder of two young bar staff (alongside way out of her depth newly promoted DI Pip). I'd still like to see more of her as I think there's so much more still to uncover. The murder and investigation though did seem to be pushed aside as Ted's journey to prove his innocence was the main focus. It felt a little like just being there to help build Amanda's character and give her something to do.

Whilst there are still some elements of Ted's abduction storyline left dangling it does come to an end and I'm intrigued as to how this will now move forward. There's a lot of rebuilding to do and I'm happy to follow that to see where it goes.

Thanks to Penguin Random House UK for the free arc. Highly recommended book

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### **Mandy White says**

Finally got the audible version.. so worth the wait. What a great book!

Love a good Aussie writer and books that have parts set in my local area. A fantastic follow up to Crimson Lake which I also loved

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### **Carolyn says**

In this sequel to Crimson Lake, the private investigation team of Ted Conkaffey and his quirky partner Amanda Pharrell are back again on a new case investigating the execution style shooting of two young staff in an out of town bar. Ex-policeman Ted is still trying to hide from the allegations that he raped a young girl and build a new life for himself in the Cairns hinterland. When the girl's father hunts him down he is forced to start looking into who really molested the girl and Amanda is mostly left to work on the case with rookie police detective Pip Sweeney. Interwoven with the events unfolding at Crimson Lake, are chapters from a diary kept by the child molester telling of the chilling events leading up to the day when Ted was seen in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Candice Fox really captures the feel of the tropics around Cairns - the wetlands and crocodile infested waters, and it's a great setting for this series. Both Ted and Amanda are interesting, damaged characters and make a great partnership. Ted is getting used to Amanda's eccentricities and is becoming more trusting of her insights and reactions to people and situations. I really hope there will be another episode in this series.

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### **Matt says**

Candice Fox is back with another thrilling story from the Australian Outback, building on her highly successful novel, Crimson Lake. Ted Conkaffey is still trying to dodge the public eye and live off the grid, professing his innocence to the crime that has chased him from Sydney. The abduction and rape of 13 year-old Claire Bingley is still causing a stir all over the country. When Conkaffey is attacked in his own home by Claire's father, pain surrounding the event resurfaces for both parties. Having been compiling any and all

leads he can, Conkaffey offers up a folder, but it is rebuffed. When Conkaffey is summoned to a crime scene by his partner, PI Amanda Pharrell, he is intrigued to see what she's found for them. It would seem that they've stumbled upon a new case, the murder of two bartenders, slain in the hours after work. Unsure whether the police will be able to do their job, a distraught father turned to Pharrell and is demanding answers. Rookie Detective Pip Sweeney is working her first case, having rising through the ranks after a number of her colleagues were implicated in a major crime spree. Armed with only her academy training and trying to run the scene, Sweeney turns to Conkaffey and Pharrell more than she ought to at times. While Pharrell is happy to pull in leads and play mind games with Sweeney, Conkaffey is trying to piece together some shards of his past life: a marriage that has all but disintegrated, a daughter who is scared of him, and no means to clear his name. Returning to give an interview on the crime and accusations, Conkaffey is railroaded by a news presenter who seeks the headlines before checking her sources. Luckily, there is a growing number who are certain that Conkaffey had nothing to do with Claire Bingley's rape. Interspersed throughout the novel are diary entries by Kevin, which show a man's personal obsession with young girls, including admissions that may be the key to Conkaffey's exoneration. With two bodies and a crime that seems to have no concrete suspects, Conkaffey and Pharrell must work quickly before the case goes cold. Fox has outdone herself again with this piece, which exemplifies why she is top of the genre and sure to be a force for years to come. Recommended to those who love her work (solo and collaborative), as well as readers who love crime thrillers.

I am always excited to delve into a Candice Fox novel, as they tend to wrap me up and not slow their pace until the final sentence. Fox has the ability to use her native Australia and dazzle the reader with both description of the setting, as well as provide strong characters that offer unique backstories. Those familiar with the first novel in the series will know much about Conkaffey and Pharrell, who are central, yet quite diverse characters. In this piece, Fox delves more into Conkaffey's personal situation and struggles to survive, still seen as one of Australia's more horrid paedophiles. These struggles envelop him and the reader can see the struggle to simply live, veiled in the knowledge that he cannot clear his name independently. Pharrell shows off more of her zany style here, exemplified in her ongoing flip-flop about opening up and playing games with those around her. Introducing Pip Sweeney proves to be an effective means of bridging the two protagonists, allowing Conkaffey to know that his partner is still focussed on the case at hand while he battles his own demons and fights to clear his name. The other characters within the story help to complement the larger narrative and provide the reader with some entertainment while forging onwards to discover who may be behind both the double murder and Bingley's assault. The story picks up soon after *Crimson Lake* left off, keeping the pace and development that series fans have come to expect. With quick chapters that leave the reader pushing onward late into the evening, the story reads extremely quickly and leaves them wanting more. Fox has laid the groundwork for future novels, sure to explore more of rural Australia.

Kudos, Madam Fox, for another stellar piece of work. I cannot praise you enough for your style and delivery. I hope many others discover your writing in the months to come.

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:  
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

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**Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says**

\*<https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com>

4.5 stars

The queen of Australian crime fiction, Candice Fox, is back with a bang, issuing her readers with another addictive novel. *Redemption Point* is the second book to feature disgraced police detective Ted Conkaffey and his private eye partner in arms, Amanda Pharrell. A double murder in Crimson Lake keeps our duo, Ted and Amanda on their toes, as they try to crack this case. Simultaneously, Ted is forced to confront the case against him, fuelled by the appearance of a figure determined to seek retribution.

*Redemption Point* returns to the fictional Australian town of Crimson Lake. After Ted Conkaffey was accused and later released in connection to the abduction and rape of a thirteen year old girl, Crimson Lake in tropical far north Queensland has been his hideaway. Ted's rainforest hideaway is soon exposed when Claire's father Dale, discovers Ted's whereabouts and is hell-bent on revenge. Ted needs to find the real perpetrator of Claire's crime, quick smart, before he becomes a victim of Dale's deadly plan. Meanwhile, the sleepy town of Crimson Lake is not so serene, it becomes the scene of a double murder of two bartenders. Ted and his private eye partner, Amanda Pharrell are called in by the father of one victim's to investigate this terrible robbery gone wrong at a local haunt called The Barking Frog Inn. As Ted and Amanda work together with the local police of Crimson Lake to solve this homicide investigation, truths pertaining to both their pasts also come to light.

A round of applause to Candice Fox, I was mesmerised by start to finish by her latest crime offering. I consider Fox to be at the very top of the ladder in terms of quality Australian crime writing. You cannot go wrong with any of her novels and her latest, *Redemption Point*, reminds of us of why Fox is at the top of her game.

For those who have not read *Redemption Point*'s predecessor, *Crimson Lake*, be assured that although these two books do connect, *Redemption Point* can be read as a standalone novel. Fox gives enough background early on in *Redemption Point*, so any new reader to the Crimson Lake based novels will not feel confused. For me, it was a most welcome return to Crimson Lake. As well as reuniting with Ted and Amanda, we also connect again with local detective inspector Pip Sweeney. Fox also introduces some colourful extra characters to the mix. A few of these are connected to Ted's past, which I found very interesting.

*Redemption Point* allows us to get to know both leads, Ted Conkaffey and Amanda Pharrell just that bit more. I appreciated the chance to glean more from these characters and their pasts. Amanda in particular seemed to come into her own in this novel. We soon pick up on the state of the relationship between Amanda and Ted. It seems to have settled into comfortable territory. They know each other's quirks and respect each other's boundaries. This is relationship where there is absolutely no sign of romance even entering into equation, instead, it is simply one solid partnership. Fox presents this relationship very well in her novel.

Another alluring voice emerges from the pages of *Redemption Point*. Interwoven within Amanda and Ted's investigations are diary entries from a source that we soon learn is connected to Ted and his case. I found these aspects of the narrative the most compelling, as well as chilling. Fox did an excellent job of getting inside the warped mind of this protagonist. Her ability to explore the psyche of a troubled mind such as Kevin's is second to none. I couldn't turn the pages fast enough, in the hope that this depraved figure would be apprehended and things would be put right for our lead.

Fox is quite the expert in police procedures and investigations. Her prose in these sections of the narrative is addictive and succinct, so we are placed at the grassroots level of each of the cases presented in *Redemption Point*. It is very easy to get swept up in cases of both our lead Ted and the double homicide that takes place in Crimson Lake, thanks to Fox's absorbing writing. True to form, Fox serves up plenty of diversions, twists,

revelations, suspicious characters and a cesspool of corruption to keep the reader on their toes.

As with *Crimson Lake*, I was taken aback by the setting descriptions of the main setting of the novel, *Crimson Lake*, based in tropical far north Queensland. Fox knows her setting and is adept at describing the sultry and dripping heat of the area. The rainforest is portrayed extremely well by Fox and the insertion of local wildlife such as the cassowary and crocodiles add more to this well fleshed out locale. Fox also makes us aware of the small town politics that exists in *Crimson Lake*. Reminding us of the type of people Ted, Amanda and co are dealing with in on a day-to-day basis.

Fox seems to have wrapped up her latest novel very well indeed. With a sense of finality to both the double homicide investigation and Ted's ongoing case, which was carried over from Fox's previous novel, *Crimson Lake*, most threads were tied up by the close of *Redemption Point*. I am keeping all things crossed in the hope that we will get a return visit to *Crimson Lake*, which has proved to be fertile ground for plenty of crimes to take place, with the dynamic duo, Ted and Amanda at the helm.

\*I wish to thank Penguin Books Australia for providing me with a free copy of this book for review purposes.

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## **Brenda says**

Amanda Pharrell and Ted Conkaffey – partners in the local *Crimson Lake* PI business, were called to the Barking Frog Inn along with the local police department - with Detective Inspector Pip Sweeney in charge - to the shocking vision of two teenagers lying dead on the grimy floor of the bar. Both Amanda and Ted had a past that made them uneasy partners and ostracized citizens of the town. Ted's disgrace was more current though, and the desperation to clear his name was still high on his list of priorities.

But the new case felt like it was succeeding in taking his mind off his troubles – until explosive allegations threatened the fragile lead he had with the believers in his innocence. Ted's neck felt like it was in a noose – he felt guilty at leaving Amanda to the murder case in *Crimson Lake*, but his mind just wasn't on it. Would they ever find the perpetrator who had actually done the deed that Ted had been arrested for? And would they find the killer of the two young people closer to home?

*Redemption Point* by Aussie author Candice Fox is the second in the *Crimson Lake* series, and in my opinion, better than the first. Plenty of twists and turns, with the quirky Amanda often making me laugh at her antics. Set in the fictional town of *Crimson Lake*, near Cairns in far north Queensland, the heat and humidity was getting to me as well. Dense bush surrounding waterways filled with growling crocodiles, plenty of dubious bad guys, and a new DI trying to make her way – along with a few friendly (or not) pet geese! An entertaining thriller which I recommend.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my digital ARC to read and review.

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## **Jenny says**

*Redemption Point* is book two of the *Crimson Lake* series by Candice Fox. Amanda Pharrel and Ted



Conkaffey caught a case looking into the murder of two young people at the local watering hole. However, that night Ted Conkaffey was attacked in his kitchen by Dale Bingley, father of Claire Bingley. That night caused Ted Conkaffey to realise he needed to investigate into Claire Bingley abduction otherwise he will never be free. The readers of Redemption Point will continue to follow the two investigations see what happens to Amanda Pharrel and Ted Conkaffey.

I enjoyed Redemption Point better than the first book in this series Crimson Lake. The way Candice Fox portrayed her characters in Redemption Point for me more believable. I was more engaged with the plot of Redemption Point. Candice Fox has an unusual writing style that you can either love or hate. I laughed with the way Candice Fox portrayed the animals in Redemption Point.

Readers of Redemption Point will learn about the way social media can help to get the messages across or defend people in criminal cases. Also, Redemption Point does an excellent job of highlighting the problems and consequences for people who are accused of child abuse when it is not true.

I recommend this book.

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### **Zoe Mann says**

"Maybe the tree was a symbol for me. Of defiance, resilience, regrowth. Of a twisted, flowerless, removed life - but a life nonetheless - possible with only the bare minimum needed to carry on."

Ted Conkaffey is an accused child kidnapper and rapist. Up until now he has felt defeated in proving his innocent, but when a stranger shows up on his property and violently attacks him Ted soon realises if he wants to remain alive he needs to find the true culprit. The one who has ruined not only his life but everyone's around him.

'Redemption Point' is the second novel in the 'Crimson Lake' series by Candice Fox. During the first an unlikely partnership is formed between Ted and convicted murderer Amanda Pharell. They run their own private investigation service which brings us to the story running throughout 'Redemption Point'. 2 teenage bartenders have been murdered whilst on shift at the Barking Frog Inn. One a local boy and the other a female backpacker. At first look it appears to be a burglary gone wrong but Ted and Amanda soon discover there is more to the story and the evidence is saying different.

Candice Fox has absolutely blown me away AGAIN. 'Crimson Lake' put her up there as one of my favourite authors and she has secured that spot with 'Redemption Point'. No other author draws me in the way that she can, no other author creates such beautifully developed yet unrefined characters, no other author makes me laugh and cry like she does and simply put, no other author tells such a good story.

I wish I could put into words how perfect Ted and Amanda's friendship is and just how perfect they are as individuals but I don't have any words other than perfection. I've never come across two characters in all my years of reading who I just "get" as much as I "get" these two.

I want to thank Penguin Random House Uk for an ARC in return for an honest review and to thank Candice Fox for completely blowing my mind for the second time. I cannot wait for the third in the series.

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## Josh says

The follow-up to 2017's *Crimson Lake* is just as good as, if not better than the original - and that's saying something.

A murder with robbery as motive - or something more sinister? Once you peel back the velvet curtain of secrecy, you can't un-see what lurks behind...

*Redemption Point* reunites readers with the unconventional tropical Queensland Private Detective's in Amanda Pharrell and Ted Conkaffey who have been asked to look into a case involving the grisly murder of two people in a pub.

A hefty portion of the book is dedicated to the fallout of Ted's wrongfully accused abduction of a 13 year old which not only cost him his family, but his job and friends. Despite being loaded with emotional baggage, the story never feels weighted down and speeds through at a somewhat frenetic pace as the plot threads weave in and out of one another towards a criminally-good climax.

The Queensland place-setting really comes into play with author Candice Fox doing a great job at creating a distinct tropical Australian feel full of humidity, horror, and heinous crime.

My rating: 5/5 stars. Two for two - this dynamic duo is fast becoming one of my favorite private detective combos.

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## Paromjit says

This is the second in the stellar Aussie series, *Crimson Lake*, by Candice Fox and it was an absolute joy to read. Set primarily in The Cairns, Queensland, with its rainforests, *Crimson Lake* with its crocs and abundant flora and fauna, this is unmissable crime fiction that drips with atmosphere, colour and vibrancy. Ted Conkaffey, deemed to be a paedophile, continues to live under the dark cloud of abducting and sexually assaulting 13 year old Claire Bingley, desperately trying to live a life under the radar, unwilling to search for the real perpetrator. However, the world is far too interested in a disgraced ex-cop, and the pressure increases with the arrival of the unforgiving, vengeful and disturbed Dale, Claire's father. Dale is in the grip of an all consuming rage directed at Ted, seriously assaulting him with a baseball bat, unconvinced of his innocence, and forcing Ted to look closer into his own case. The murderous Dale takes up residence in Ted's home, refusing to leave, making it clear that he will kill whoever is guilty. The tattooed and scarred Amanda Pharrell PI, and Ted have been engaged to find out who killed 2 young bartenders, Andy Bell and Keema Daula at the Barking Frog Inn, by Andy's father who has little reason to trust the police.

The one off character that is Amanda Pharrell is one of the strongest reasons to read this series. She has killed in self defence, served prison time, has the charming and yet, at the same time, irritating habit of speaking in rhymes, she is a brilliant and gifted investigator with the almost supernatural ability to intuit the truth. She lacks the capacity to be discreet, so forthright as to be the proverbial bull in a china shop. The Inexperienced DI Philippa 'Pip' Sweeney needs all the help she can get in her first murder case, and finds herself working with the gloriously more able Amanda, agog at her eccentricities. Pip has a burden of guilt she carries that weighs her down, which her growing friendship with Amanda helps to ease as the investigation progresses. Ted makes the naive decision to submit to a TV interview that pays well, without

understanding the machiavellian purpose and ratings chasing intentions of programme. His already difficult life looks to engulf him with additional threats in his neverending nightmare, leading him to acquire the Middle Eastern bodyguards, Linda and Sharon, courtesy of the notorious gangster, Khaled, who unlike his friends, colleagues and family in Sydney, believes in his innocence.

Ted finds nuggets of stability from the precarious nature of his life, that shape his new, more enduring identity, this includes the psychological therapy he gains from discussing his life and issues with Woman, the mother goose, and the routines involved in caring for her and her 6 seriously cute goslings. He is not the same man who used to be married to Kelly, although his heart misses his darling infant daughter, Lilian. He has constructed a sparse but vital life at Crimson Lake, with a few close friends who have made life bearable in their commitment and support, and he has no intention of letting this life go. As answers that prove his innocence emerge, I sincerely hope Candice Fox has plans to continue this series, because I absolutely love it. This is crime fiction that should not be missed. Simply fantastic and highly recommended! Many thanks to Random House Cornerstone for an ARC.

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## Tien says

Wishes do come true! Well... sort of! I wanted more of Ted & Amanda and I also wanted to hear a bit of from Amanda (my wish was in my review for the first book, *Crimson Lake*, so if you're reading this, Candice, my thanks x). *Redemption Point* gave me both though Amanda Pharrell is still just as excruciatingly elusive. Excruciating in the sense that I just couldn't see how she thinks but she's just as entertaining and frustrating as ever!

*How do you solve a problem like Amanda?*

*How do you catch a cloud and pin it down?*

*How do you find a word that means Amanda?*

*A flibbertijibbet! A will-o'-the wisp! A clown!*

In this book, Ted and Amanda spent quite a lot of time on their own so it made sense to have multiple perspectives even though that mean we barely see them interact however there were a couple other perspectives and one of which gave me the willies. It was in the form of diary entries and was, therefore, very intimate and confessional. I was very uncomfortable with this, at the beginning, due to the character's thoughts but halfway through I could just appreciate the additional thrills and suspense this perspective add to the book.

Ted, despite his best effort to bury himself, was forced to face up to the Claire Bingley's abduction that he was wrongly accused for. He had resisted looking into the matter but he could no longer shy away. A confrontation with Claire's father, Dale, combined with Ted's own generous heart may just come to end the matter once for all... but for whom?

Amanda mostly had to investigate the murders at Barking Frog Inn (don't you just love this name?!) without Ted though that did not mean she didn't have any assistance. In the form of Detective Inspector Pip Sweeney who carried her own dark shameful secret. Ted may be missing in action but Amanda & Pip were just as on point. And that ending! Gah! *\*gagging myself from spoiling everything!\**

Aside from amazing characters, I love the vivid descriptions in this novel. It's one thing to have a vivid imagination but to be able to write them down without boring your reader, that's skill. I feel and 'see' the

humid lush isolated Queensland town. I love to live there in my imagination but not IRL lol

*"Between the houses on the other side of the creek lay thick tangles of rainforest, impenetrable by the eye, walls of crossing vines and elephant ear leaves wet and dripping..."*

*Redemption Point* is an amazingly crafted crime thriller. Tension was taut right from the very beginning and it just gets tighter; so strung up that by ending you don't know whether to cry from heartbreak or relief. These poor characters get no break whatsoever especially Ted. And can I get back to that ending?! Just spectacular... I need book 3 (I'm hoping there is one...).

*Thanks to Penguin Books Australia for copy of book in exchange of honest review*

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## **Lou says**

'Redemption', first published as 'Redemption Point' in January 2018, is the second book in the Crimson Lake series by No.1 Sunday Times bestselling Australian crime writer Candice Fox and features Private Investigators (PIs) Ted Conkaffey and Amanda Pharell, as they investigate happenings throughout Crimson Lake, Queensland. I have not had the pleasure of reading the first book, but that didn't affect my enjoyment in any way, and this could easily be read as a standalone novel - we are given plenty of background information that it is easy to see how and why both Conkaffey and Pharell reached the point they are now at in their lives. The publisher compares this book to Jane Harper's 'The Dry', and there are certainly similarities - both are set in Australia, both feature murders and both feature a protagonist who is under suspicion. However, 'The Dry' is a lot more atmospheric and uses the Australian location as a huge part of the plot, this title has different positive aspects.

Ted Conkaffey, an ex-policeman from the Sydney drugs squad, has been wrongly accused of rape and assault. He is arrested, charged and imprisoned, but when his case arrives in court it is swiftly thrown out for lack of evidence. However, in many ways the damage has already been done, as he has lost both his wife and baby daughter, his home and his job. Ted is desperately trying to rebuild his life, but people have long memories, and the stigmatisation has not been reversed despite the case collapsing. He makes the decision to move to the middle of nowhere in an effort to escape the hatred people feel towards him. Ted and the true perpetrator shortly begin a game of cat and mouse, but who will be triumphant? Another storyline runs parallel to Ted's ordeal when he and Pharell are asked to investigate the killings of two staff in a local bar.

This is an exquisitely written story with two overlapping and converging plots that, in the end, result in a satisfying denouement. Ted and Amanda are well developed characters, and their relationship is a mismatched and quirky one. Both investigators are broken and flawed individuals, but both are also endearing and charming in their own way. The dynamic between them is unique, and I really appreciated that they felt realistic and believable. Each has unfortunately gone through very difficult times, but admirably each has moved on with their lives. The fast pace and action-packed plot leads to you turning the pages so rapidly that you hit the conclusion faster than you ideally would've liked - I certainly wish I had read slower and savoured this book a little more! That's the trade off caused by an excellent thriller - finishing in one sitting and regretting it v savouring it (but finding it difficult as you want to read on and find out the final resolution).

Many thanks to Arrow for an ARC. I was not required to post a review, and all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

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## **Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says**

REDEMPTION POINT is a stunning sequel to the fabulous Crimson Lake. I was thrilled to once again read about disgraced ex-police Ted Conkaffey and his private detective partner/ convicted murderer Amanda Pharrell. Yes, they are truly an odd duo. And, I've not even told you all about the cats and geese...

I found the first book to be addictive and couldn't wait to read the sequel. And, this book is even better than the first book. For one thing, we finally start to see a light in the tunnel for poor Ted. Being accused of abducting a young girl and then released because of lack of evidence isn't really making him innocent in the public's eyes. Vice versa, he can hardly leave the house.

REDEMPTION POINT may be the book that finally grants Ted his redemption. If he and Amanda survive the cases they work on of course. It's thrilling straight through and also heartwarming. The only parts I had a problem with was the diary entries where a pedophile wrote about his urges. Those parts were hard to get through. Also, Candice Fox decided to break my heart towards the end of the book when we finally learn the truth about the death of the young bartenders.

***I recommend this series with all my heart and I'm longing for the next book in the series.***

*I want to thank Arrow Publishing for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!*

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