

## **Independent author**

**Karina Barker**

## **The in consequence of offal**

### Biographical note:

Karina Barker's short fiction has been published in *Meanjin*, and shortlisted for prizes such as the Orange Prize for Fiction/Harper's & Queen Short Story Competition and the London Writer's Competition. Her poetry has been performed on ABC Radio National, published in journals in both Australia and the UK, and shortlisted for prizes such as the Aesthetica International Creative Works Competition. She has published short fiction, poetry, children's writing and journalism, internationally and within Australia.

From the lip of the old farm tip three dead cows can be seen and the rusted holes of the old water tank and the cracked red cases of rifle pellets and the white skin of a sheep's carcass and the permanence of plastic bags and the inconsequence of offal and the condensation inside a clear Coke bottle and the blue spray-gun that marked the lambs and two tractor tyres and the metal heads of mattress springs and the bones of smacked kangaroos and a tangle of orchard nets and the greasy silver inside of chip packets and the crisp newness of old McDonald's wrappers and the former glory of tree trunks and one grey rabbit foot and a digital television antenna and the ooze of a car battery and the changing colour of corrugated iron and a few sticky ice-block sheaths and some broken light fittings and three severed hooves and the sharp victory of thistle thorns and a dry cow pat and two rotten hay bales and stumps of red candles and the clean bone of a cow's skull and brown beer bottles and round pink rocks and the soot on the inside of a ten gallon drum and the stars on the end of the five pronged pickets and a fridge, two hats and a truck, nothing else.