

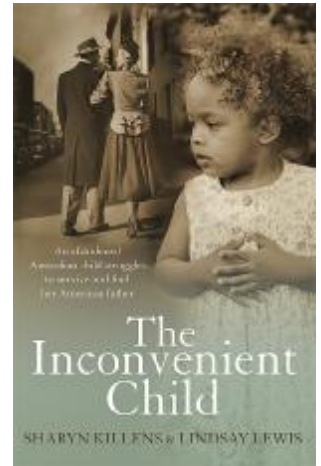
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Secret Australian Child Finds a Loving African-American Family after a Search Spanning Two Continents and 48 Years.

Sharyn Killens is better known as **Sharyn Crystal**, a successful Australian singer and entertainer in clubs and on luxurious cruise ship stages around the world.

But her life was not always glamorous and *The Inconvenient Child* is a gritty, no holds barred account of her secret birth, her battle to survive her shocking childhood and her extraordinary journey to discover her true identity.

Struggling to survive in an often hostile white society, Sharyn knew she was different but the subject of her father's identity was taboo. Her desperation to know her roots catapulted her on a journey of vulnerability and degradation, exacerbated by the clashes over the secret her mother refused to reveal.



Born in Sydney in 1948, Killens was the product of a blue-eyed blond Australian and a visiting African-American serviceman. Her mother struggled with the dilemma of what to do with her at a time when it was scandalous to have an illegitimate baby, let alone a black one, so she did all she could to distance herself from her inconvenient child.

Rescued from squalid foster care, the child Sharyn then lived in a 'party house' in the red light district of Kings Cross till age five when she was again abandoned in a convent-orphanage. By fifteen, she was a troubled teenage runaway, arrested and sent to notorious juvenile detention centres and at twenty two, she was Georgia, the exotic black stripper in Kings Cross with a drug problem.

But her love of music helped her realise her dream to become a successful singer and entertainer.

Then, after forty years, the identity of Sharyn's father was finally revealed so Sharyn started her search for Thaddeus Killens; a quest taking her another eight years. Long before the internet and Google, Sharyn set out with only a name, in a population of 240 million.

The journey eventually took her across the world to New York for an emotional introduction on a national US television show, hosted by expat Aussie talk show host, Gordon Elliott. It was here the lost Australian daughter found the loving family she had yearned for all her life; three African-American sisters and a brother.

Then in North Carolina she was welcomed by eighty Gospel singing cousins and Aunt Decie, the last remaining sister of her father's eleven siblings. It was here, her African-American slavery roots were revealed.

The Inconvenient Child is a story of courage and determination, of brutal beginnings and rejection, of a dream fulfilled and finally, of triumph and joy. An inspirational true story.

To arrange an interview with Sharyn Killens and co-Author Lindsay Lewis
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