

Phillip Island Writer's Words Of Love Ebonnie Lord, South Gippsland Sentinel Times 4/11/2008

'A blue clothes peg taken from her hair' as bond for a share house, is some of the intricate symbolism weaved through Sue Saliba's latest novel, 'Something in the World Called Love.' Published by Penguin Books, the novel is a beautiful tale about self discovery when living in close quarters with others.

When Esma, a young English Literature student moves into 22 Starling Street she is shy and slightly depressed.

Her new housemate, Kara, organised and confident, is to Esma perfect and becomes something of a surrogate sister after her older sibling left to live overseas.

But things became complicated when Kara's jealous feelings toward the other housemate, Simon dictate how she treats Esma.

Over time Esma starts to realise this is something she has to stand up to. Getting involved in an animal rights campaign and discovering others who are not as manipulative helps her do this.

'Something in the World Called Love' encapsulates one of the most important emotional lessons all young adults go through – figuring out which relationships are healthy and worth maintaining and in the process falling deeper in love with life.

The way the piece is strung together is delicate but deep and flows naturally, using seasons as chapters instead of numbers.

The complex thoughts of Esma are recorded employing unconventional methods that make it at once a light and enriching read.

'I used lowercase for the whole novel to represent the protagonist's thoughts – to have continuous movement between the internal and external perceptions of Esma,' Sue said from her home last Tuesday.

Based on Phillip Island, this is Sue's second novel.

She has written for several years, was an English teacher at a Melbourne secondary college and has taught creative writing at both RMIT university and at Melbourne University. She has a Masters degree in creative writing.

Sue has written two previous books, the young adult novel, *Watching Seagulls*, which was a Children's Book Council 'Notable Australian Book of the Year' and the children's book, *The Skin of A Star*.

She has also published short stories and poetry and is working on her third novel, which is set in Alaska.

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