



# The Deceptions

Suzanne Leal

*"The Deceptions is a stunning example of the way fiction tells war better than any other form - I could taste its madness, its horror. Saw from the outside, its utter absurdity. For days after reading the novel I found myself wrestling with the price of betrayal, and the value of truth."* - **Sofie Laguna, winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award**

*The Deceptions* was inspired by the lives of Suzanne's former landlords, Fred and Eva, who were Czech and Jewish and had both survived the Holocaust. Throughout the years of friendship their stories were gifted to Suzanne to form the inspiration behind her powerful new novel of wartime betrayal.

*"Impossible to put down. Leal is a master storyteller. Mesmerising, heartbreaking, honest-The Deceptions is ferociously good."*  
- **Nikki Gemmell, author of After**

*"At what cost can a survivor of hell rebuild a seemingly normal life? The Deceptions is a gripping and tragic story for our times."*  
- **Leah Kaminsky, author of The Hollow Bones**



**Prague, 1943.** Taken from her home in Prague, Hana Lederova finds herself imprisoned in the Jewish ghetto of Theresienstadt, where she endures the threat of transportation to the east. When she attracts the attention of her guard, a Czech gendarme, Hana reluctantly accepts his advances - hoping for the protection she so desperately needs.

**Sydney, 2010.** Manipulated into a liaison with her married boss, Tessa knows she needs to end it, but how? Tessa's grandmother, Irena, also has something to hide. Harkening back to the Second World War, hers is a carefully kept secret that, if revealed, would send shockwaves well beyond her own fractured family.

Moving from wartime Europe to modern day Australia, this book follows a fractured family whose lives are built on the foundations of lies, love, deception and regrets.

### About Suzanne Leal

Suzanne Leal is the bestselling author of *The Teacher's Secret* and *Border Street*. A regular interviewer and presenter at literary events and festivals, she was the senior judge for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards from 2017 to 2019. Suzanne is also a lawyer experienced in child protection, criminal law and refugee law. She lives in Sydney with her husband and four children. [www.suzanneleal.com](http://www.suzanneleal.com)

*"Those who grew up in the shadow of the Second World War had Elie Wiesel's Night to define for them the enormity for the Holocaust. Those who were born later can now rely upon Suzanne Leal's brilliant and confronting novel The Deceptions to open their eyes to the true horrors of Nazism."*  
- **Alan Gold, author of Bloodline**

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