



Miles Franklin Literary Award 2009 Longlist

Addition
Toni Jordan

Text Publishing Melbourne Australia

Grace Lisa Vandenburg counts. The letters in her name (19). The steps she takes every morning to the local café (920); the number of poppy seeds on her slice of orange cake, which dictates the number of bites she'll take to finish it. Grace counts everything, because numbers hold the world together. And she needs to keep an eye on how they're doing.

Seamus Joseph O'Reilly (also a 19, with the sexiest hands Grace has ever seen) thinks she might be better off without the counting. If she could hold down a job, say. Or open her kitchen cupboards without conducting an inventory, or make a sandwich containing an unknown number of sprouts.

Grace's problem is that Seamus doesn't count. Her other problem is...he does. *Addition* is a fabulous debut novel. Grace is witty, flirtatious and headstrong. She's not a bit sentimental but even so, she may be about to lose track of the number of ways she can fall in love.

About Toni Jordan

Toni Jordan was born in Brisbane in 1966 and graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Science. She has worked as a sales assistant, molecular biologist, quality control chemist and marketing manager.

Following an early mid-life crisis, Toni left her job in the vitamin industry and enrolled in RMIT's Professional Writing and Editing course with the idea of starting her own writing business. She needed one more subject, so she picked Novel—and in 2006 won a Varuna Awards master class to develop her debut novel, *Addition*. An off-beat love story, it was recognised as the Australian Women's Weekly's Great Read for February 2008 and has been sold in ten countries world-wide. *Addition* has recently been selected as a Richard & Judy Great Summer Read in the UK.

Toni lives in Melbourne where she works as a freelance copywriter.