



Miles Franklin Literary Award 2009 Longlist

The Slap
Christos Tsiolkas
Allen & Unwin

At a suburban barbecue, a man slaps a child who is not his own.

This event has a shocking ricochet effect on a group of people, mostly friends, who are directly or indirectly influenced by the event.

In this remarkable novel, Christos Tsiolkas turns his unflinching and all-seeing eye onto that which connects us all: the modern family and domestic life in the twenty-first century. *The Slap* is told from the points of view of eight people who were present at the barbecue. The slap and its consequences force them all to question their own families and the way they live, their expectations, beliefs and desires.

What unfolds is a powerful, haunting novel about love, sex and marriage, parenting and children, and the fury and intensity - all the passions and conflicting beliefs - that family can arouse. In its clear-eyed and forensic dissection of the ever-growing middle class and its aspirations and fears, *The Slap* is also a poignant, provocative novel about the nature of loyalty and happiness, compromise and truth.

About Christos Tsiolkas

Christos Tsiolkas wrote the novels *Loaded*, *The Jesus Man* and *Dead Europe*, which won the Age 2006 Book of the Year Fiction Award. He is also the author of several plays including *Who's Afraid of the Working Class?* and *Dead Caucasians* and *Non Parlo di Salo*, co-written with Spiro Economopoulos.