

**Feminism, romance and gardening collide
in a quirky story of self-discovery**



Book Information

Title: **The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl**

Author: Joni Page

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Genre: Fiction, Modern Women's / Contemporary

Format: paperback (264 pages, 6"x9"), ebook

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Adelaide bookstores (Dillons - Norwood;

Dymocks - Adelaide, Glenelg & Hyde Park)

Online: Kobo

(list of retailers is expanding,
see jonipage.com)

The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl

Candice Kelly is a modern woman who no longer knows where she's heading.

Or what she wants from life. Or who she is.

After she believes she's "failed" a simple personality test at a Personal Development Day, there's only one conclusion to make: she's misplaced herself somewhere along the way.

In looking for herself, Candice lets us in on her hilariously quirky world of friendship and family, of laughter and love, and of the tough decisions that face us all about our ambitions for life.

Join Candice as she travels her roller-coaster path of discovery to find out where she needs to be, and the person she truly is.

Filled with unforgettable characters and inescapable truths, *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* is an exuberant and joyous romp about choosing your own destiny.

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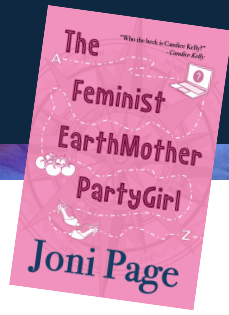
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Joni Page

Media Kit - 2025-04



Short Bio: Joni Page lovingly crafts positive stories about people asking themselves big questions. Things don't always go their way, but they are brave and persistent, and they triumph.

Medium bio: Joni Page lovingly crafts stories about people asking themselves big questions. Her characters bravely steer their way through situations readers can identify with. Things don't always go their way, but they are brave and persistent, and they triumph.

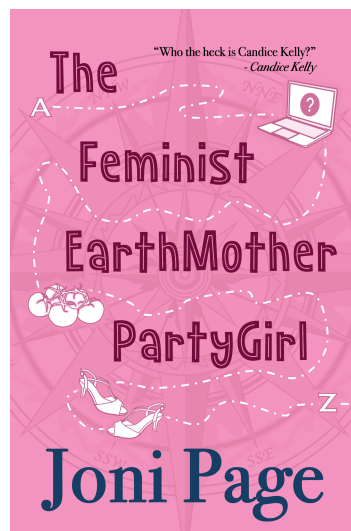


Long bio: Joni Page lovingly crafts stories about people asking themselves big questions about what they want from life. Things don't always go their way, but they are brave and persistent, and they triumph. Joni has been writing since she was nine years old. She holds degrees in teaching and psychology, and Honours in education. She is proud to have been part of the award-winning anthology *The Sound of Silence: Journeys Through Miscarriage*. She lives in beautiful Adelaide in friendly South Australia with her family and a bountiful garden. *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* is her debut novel.

Author of **The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl**

Interview Topics

1. What *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* is about
2. The importance of the main character's community to the story
3. Why it is an important book for women
4. The award-winning anthology the author was involved in
5. Other projects of the author



Suggested interview questions

How did you come up with the title, *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl*?

What makes the main character, Candice Kelly, question her life?

Why is Candice's community so interesting?

Is your book a romance?

Are relationships a major theme in the book?

Is Candice your favourite character in this book?

Why did you think this was a story that needed telling?

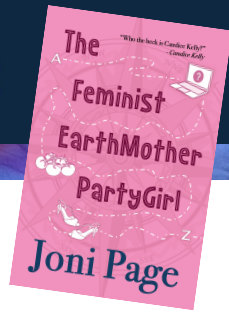
Did you know the final outcome when you started the book?

Was it an easy book to write?

You've been published in an award-winning book?

What are your other books about?

How do people buy your book?



With Joni Page Author of **The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl**

How did you come up with the title, *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl*?

If you sat down and asked a person to describe themselves, they'd probably say something that described what they did rather than who they are. "I'm a dad", "I'm a teacher", "I'm a volunteer". But I believe knowing who we are is very important.

So I set out to explore a person who had lost their sense of self and was determined to regain it. A book's title really sets its course, so I deliberately chose three descriptors that were as far apart as I could unreasonably get! The story had to move along at a cracking pace to cover everything it needed to, whilst still allowing enough time to dawdle over the big questions. And fun. There had to be plenty of fun. In the end I believe the book lived up to the promise of its amusing title.

What makes the main character Candice Kelly question her life?

Candice is happy with her life until she does a personality test on a professional development day at work. It comes out so completely unlike how she sees herself that she wonders who she is and where she's heading. But the storylines are massively deep, with a range of supporting characters who are all looking for Better in their life, too, which provides a nice measuring stick for her to consider her journey. Her community is one of the best parts of the book, and they just ran onto the page as if they'd always been there, waiting for me to write about them.

Why is Candice's community so interesting?

They all have their own crazy stories. Her parents got together after a one-night stand, and her brothers are both called Harry. Her best friend Kat, wow, she was a revelation! Then there's her neighbours who live either side of her flat, and her work colleagues, and more. She also inadvertently goes on a date with someone who's not her boyfriend. It's bedlam!

Is your book a romance?

It has romance in it but so much more.

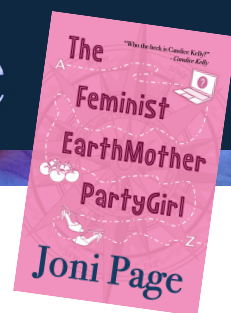
Women are often portrayed in books and movies and sitcoms as mainly seeking love rather than reaching for other life goals too. Of course it's important to have love in our life, but *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* happily explores the richness of all the different relationships in our lives - our lovers, friendships, family, colleagues and also our relationships with our Self. There's a lot of natural humour and pathos in our regular lives.

Are relationships a major theme in the book?

My writing focuses a lot on relationships because they underpin everything. The biggest theme is, of course, about Candice's relationship with herself, but her quirky family have a huge influence on how she thinks about her life as well.

Friendships also form a big focus of the book. Candice has great neighbours and colleagues, but it is her friendship with her best friend Kat, who features in the little prequel chapter available on my website, that forms a crucial part of who she is. Kat is an extraordinary character who really could have had her own book, except that she only came about because I was writing the book about Candice. Although they are so different, their lives run in parallel, and I loved writing about their friendship.

In addition, Candice examines the place of romantic love in her life throughout the book. She's had many failures, and she wonders how important it is in the scheme of her other life ambitions. *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* covers it all really.



With Joni Page Author of **The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl**

Is Candice your favourite character in this book?

I love them all! They all have bruises, but each one is doing the best they can. My characters are like my invisible friends. I want to see them happy just as I do my real friends.

Why did you think this was a story that needed telling?

Candice and her story came out of my own experiences. When I was 28, I felt like I needed to be more serious and grown up. I made some of my worst mistakes after that! Approaching a new decade is prime time for examining our lives, and I wanted to write somebody having a better journey than I did. Candice is a great example of how we can adjust the direction of our life. She's quite formidable, but she doesn't feel that way about herself in the beginning.

Did you know the final outcome when you started the book?

The story basically wrote itself, and the characters in Candice's hilarious community just tumbled onto the page. It was so wonderful when they appeared in my head. I laughed a lot. I cried a little. The focus of the book is that we're in charge of our own destiny, and Candice learns so much by observing how others approach their lives. Candice is funny and feisty and loving and pragmatic and she roars through her confusion. It's really entertaining to see how she gets clear about who she is and what she wants.

Was it an easy book to write?

No! It was my third attempt. The book started out as a self-help book called How to Be a Feminist Earth Mother Party Girl but really, who can go past a great story instead? So I decided to write a novel, and create a character my readers could identify with, rather than tell them what to do. After a disappointing attempt to write it as a school-leaver's journal, I had a few hours to kill in a library, and Candice Kelly came out of nowhere. The more I wrote her story, the more intrigued I was by this woman who was questioning everything about her life and the lives of those around her.

You've been published in an award-winning book?

I was proud to be part of the anthology *The Sound of Silence: Journeys Through Miscarriage*, published by Mostly for Mothers. It won the ACT Writing and Publishing Award for Nonfiction, and the Canberra Critics Circle Award for Literature. I was very grateful to be part of that, and it kind of completed a full circle. We'd had two miscarriages, and my husband and I decided to pull out all stops to get pregnant and stay pregnant, which resulted in me taking a year off study and work. I had to have something quiet to do, and that something was writing. Writing for that anthology was like closing the loop that started with the decision to take a year off. We were lucky enough to have a family, and a whole heap of books written. Bad things can lead to good outcomes, which is one of the themes of *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl*.

What are your other books about?

I have two very different series already mostly written. The three books in this series are all stand-alone stories. Instead of following a character, they explore different women at the crossroads of their lives, Candice in this book at 28, then another at 38, and another at 48. My other series is about a friendship group and how they face up to a crossroad of life challenges together. I like the thought we can always get up and dust ourselves off and get on with life. I also have a compendium of short stories, and a cookbook and some helpful non-fiction. All of my books are about making our lives better.

How do people buy your book?

It's available at Dillons at Norwood and Dymocks in Adelaide, Glenelg and Hyde Park or you can go to my website jonipage.com. The ebook is available through Kobo.

Snatching success from the jaws of calamity

Feminism, romance and gardening collide in a quirky story of self-discovery

ADELAIDE, South Australia, Australia 24/4/2025

Joni Page has degrees in teaching and psychology, and Honours in education, with awards in each degree. She writes fiction in the genres of optimistic fiction, feminist romance, and short pick-me-up stories. She is proud to have been part of the award-winning anthology *The Sound of Silence: Journeys Through Miscarriage*. Her books contain romance, comedy, drama, feminism, career choice, housework, insights and, above all, the way to a better life.

Her debut novel, *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl*, takes the reader along for the ride with Candice Kelly, an average woman with an average life, facing an existential crisis many of us are familiar with: Who am I? Through a personality test on a personal development day, she finds out that she isn't who she thinks she is.

I'm apparently rule-driven rather than creative. A wallflower rather than the life of the party. Brain instead of heart. Reality not ambition.

In other words, an introverted, rule-driven pragmatist who lacks emotional dexterity.

I have something important to say here, so listen up.

THIS IS NOT ME!

An entertaining page-turner, the book also cleverly examines how to "live our best life". Joni Page lovingly captures the essence of the Everywoman in crisis, distilling it into an optimistic story of fun, hope and resolution.

The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl will launch at The Clark Room, Glandore Community Centre, South Australia on Sunday 27 April at 3pm. RSVP Joni Page at jonipage@potatoandleek.com

Joni is available for interview at:

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END

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Joni Page

Media Kit - 2025-04

Snatching success from the jaws of calamity

Feminism, romance and gardening collide in a quirky story of self-discovery

22/4/2025 Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

In today's uncertain world, our lives often continue on day after day in much the same manner, unless something cataclysmic happens. Then we are very much thrown off course.

So begins the novel *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl*, which takes the reader on a riotous ride with Candice Kelly, an average woman with an average life, facing an existential crisis many of us are familiar with: Who am I?

Candice is stunned when she finds out, through a personality test on a personal development day, that she isn't who she thinks she is.

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THIS IS NOT ME!

Debut author Joni Page lovingly captures the essence of the Everywoman in crisis, distilling it into an optimistic story of fun, hope and resolution.

"She feels like she's failed the personality test," Joni laughs. "So she questions who she's become. She opens her eyes to find everyone around her progressing with their life in one way or another. It dawns on her she's stuck in a giant rut. Watching her claw her way out is heartwarming, fun, and at times hilarious."

Joni has been writing for over twenty-five years but has only just managed to take a breather and publish. "I had a story published in the award-winning anthology *The Sound of Silence: Journeys through miscarriage* some years ago, but I was lucky enough to have a family, so writing my stories was as much as I could manage. A lot of my work was written in the middle of the night when everyone was asleep or on scraps of paper to type up when I got home from shopping. But Candice Kelly, as a character, was a real gift. She was such a great woman to write about - so brave, yet so scared, so strong and yet so lost. So funny and yet so serious about her future."

Her quirky community also make for a fascinating backdrop – her parents, best friend, neighbours and colleagues all have their own tales to tell, not to mention her two brothers who are both named Harry.

The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl contains everything a woman in an identity crisis needs to consider in rebuilding herself: romance and relationships, career and community, family and friendships.

It's a book for Every Woman.

The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl is out now through Dillons and Dymocks in South Australia, Kobo (eBook), and through Joni's website, jonipage.com.

Joni is available for interview at:
jonipage@potatoandleek.com

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Joni Page

Media Kit - 2025-04

Turning disasters into a new direction

Australian author turns fertility challenges into a new career

22/4/2025 Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

The covid-19 pandemic has been a global upturning of lives everywhere. But for one of Australia's newest authors, it has also been a time to shift directions.

"Strangely, we started with one disaster - two devastating miscarriages - but then it took another disaster - the covid 19 pandemic - to provide space to achieve something positive," says Joni Page, author of the newly released novel, *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl*.

"Miscarriage is pretty devastating. After the second one, we were desperate enough to take a radical step. We decided to "make the space" for a baby to come into our lives. I'd take a year off, no study, no work, and see what happened. I had to have something quiet to do with my days, so I decided to have a go at writing. Once I started, I couldn't stop."

Fast forward two decades, and Joni was, like the rest of us, stuck at home with her family because of the covid pandemic.

"My husband and I looked at all the content I'd created. I'd finished entire novels, several childrens' picture books, a number of helpful non-fiction and assorted other stuff. We were in a different place to someone who had written their first novel because we had a truckload of stuff to publish. Between us we believed we had the resources to set up our own independent publishing company, so we started to pull it all together. It's been years of work - family life is busy and we're both perfectionists - but it's also been a fun ride."

They decided to start with one of Joni's favourite stories, which also begins with a disaster. *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* is narrated by Candice Kelly, who believes she's "failed" a personality test. The only thing to do is to go in search of who she is. "The story evolves over two intense weeks of confusion, misunderstandings, laughter and pathos. Candice is pretty formidable, but she doesn't feel that way at the start. It's fun to watch her turn what she sees as disaster into determination."

If Joni has turned her unfortunate miscarriages and the unsettling pandemic into chasing her dreams, perhaps this is an example of life imitating art?

"Absolutely," says Joni. "Finding that inner 'formidable' is really important for us all, whether it's steering our way through miscarriages, pandemics, or any of life's other misadventures. Sometimes it's only in times of great upheaval that we get clear about where we want to head."

The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl is out now through Dillons and Dymocks in South Australia, Kobo (eBook), and through Joni's website, jonipage.com.

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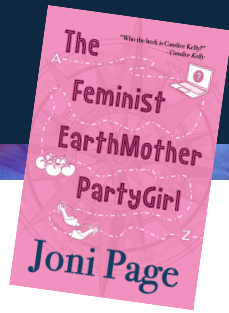
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Media Kit - 2025-04



In times of the most catastrophic of catastrophes, the only place one can start is with the known knowns.

But what is known?

Start from scratch, Candice.

1. I'm not a girl. I Am Woman.
2. I'm over the age of eighteen, permitted to vote thanks to the efforts of the suffragettes, well past the years of growing tall and the perils of puberty and ready to pay full fare should I need to take public transport.
3. I'm not a virgin. I've had my heart broken more than once.
4. I live in my own flat with the lease in my own name.
5. I hold down a good job gained after years of slogging away at school and university.
6. I'm not reliant on a man for my future or fortune. I don't go by Miss. I'm not in the least bit interested in getting married. I don't even want to think about pregnancy or child rearing or choosing schools or being somebody's housewife.

I do want it. Someday. Just not now. Except the housewife bit. Is there an agency where you can hire a housewife so you can have all the good bits of marriage and none of the bad?

I digress.

7. I'm happy. I'm healthy. I'm well liked.

I'm a little egocentric, wouldn't you say?

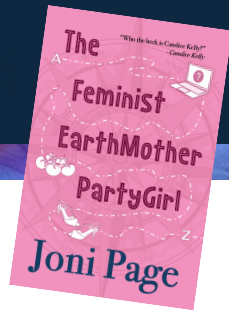
If that was all there was this story wouldn't be very long. You'd think: *That was boring. Inane. Pointless. And not worth the effort I've put in to start it.*

Which brings me to the story of my life and where I am at this moment. All those things - boring, pointless, inane and not worth the effort I've put in to start it - unfortunately describe my current situation.

I think back on all the chances that had to happen for me to be here - all the lucky escapes, the miracles, the meetings, the opportunities, the full-term pregnancies that delivered generation after generation so I could exist, typing into my computer keyboard, the technology that was invented, the food industry, the health industry, the laws for equal rights and ... well, paper and ink, and education, all of the absurd, implausible, improbable events that brought me to this point - obviously they'd be for nothing if I'm not going to take my life out for a spin.

Which is not what I've been doing. Step after step, pace after pace, plod after plod with no thought for where I'm heading. I have a job, a flat and a boyfriend ... Whoops, I haven't mentioned him, have I? And he'd pull out his Sad Face if he knew.

My boyfriend of two months (let's call him Gene for privacy's sake, although his real name is Godfrey Channing) is a sweet guy. He has a kind demeanour and a well-paying job and a loyalty unsurpassed by my other boyfriends. I'm hoping he's not The One. Because I'm not ready for The One. I want to experience. I want to know myself and the world, I want to revel in the wonder of being here.



I know what you're thinking. *You should've thought about that before you got yourself a job where they're counting on you, before you took a lease out on your flat and, worst of all, you should've thought of this before you got into a relationship.*

My defence is I didn't. I only know this now because yesterday, during a personal development day at work, the facilitator gave us a personality test.

Which, unfortunately, I failed.

I'm apparently rule-driven rather than creative. A wallflower rather than the life of the party. Brain instead of heart. Reality not ambition. In other words, an introverted, rule-driven pragmatist who lacks emotional dexterity.

I have something important to say here, so listen up.

THIS IS NOT ME!

Anyone who's ever spent time with me knows this isn't a valid description. And now it's plainly apparent I've well and truly misplaced myself.

Last night Gene worked a shift so I was home alone, pacing like a ghost, forgetting to eat dinner, seeking sense in my Self.

Today I need to get back in touch with my emotions. My gut needs to tell me more than just 'Time to eat. I need to break some rules. Be that lively, vivacious, spirited being of my youth.

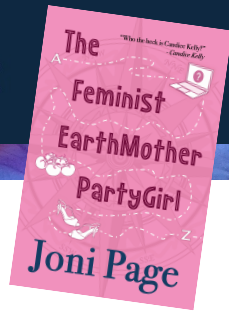
Let's face it: school goes on for an interminably long time then is over in an instant. Now my twenties are about to do the same.

There's a Me out there somewhere and I need to find her, to break free from the well-worn road, to strike out anew.

To Liberation!

I'm going to follow my inner voice!

Damn it, there's the doorbell.



Gene wants to move in.

“Sure. That would be great,” I tell him. “I need to sublet my flat while I go in search of The Truth.”

He looks at me in that uncomprehending way he has as he stands at my front doorstep. He’s got a dazzlingly handsome face but not a lot goes on under his trendy blonde haircut.

“Sublet? What? Uh, I don’t get it?”

I smile. “I’m going on a journey.” My heart lifts with every word.

His pretty blue eyes reflect the sky. “You’re going on a holiday? I’ll come, too? Sounds like fun?”

As always, he’s unsure of himself. Dear Gene. He’s sweet and compliant and a head turner. Kind of a Trophy Boyfriend. Yep, you’re right: it’s a world gone mad. *She’s talking about him like men used to talk about women, dating him because he looks good without any intention of committing.*

Ah, my first Truth. Women, having complained mightily that our marketability as a partner was based on looks and whether we’d support our men without making a fuss about our own lives, are now free to do the same thing to men. And although I’m glad the score is even, Chaos Theory has romped straight in. Change one little thing and the whole system goes belly-up.

Maybe I wouldn’t be so flustered about the passage of my life if I was married and spending my days proudly keeping my house clean and teaching my daughters how to cook. Maybe I wouldn’t be so freedom-fixated if my life depended on finding someone to marry me so I wouldn’t end up begging or selling my goodies on street corners. Feminism has brought with it freedom, but such liberation has called our lives into question. Now we have a choice: career or motherhood, or career and motherhood. I wonder if things are easier or a whole lot more complex.

Gene is waiting for an answer, his brow furrowing and creasing and bending askew.

“Not a holiday. A journey,” I repeat. “Still planning it. I’ll get back to you.” I step back to close the door.

He holds it open. “Can I come in?” He blinks, his long lashes pathetically attempting to wipe the confusion from his brain.

I push it again. “I’m busy.”

He peers past me, holds it open firmly. “Do you have a-a-a visitor?” His lip begins to wobble.

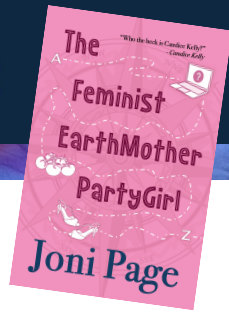
Damn it. He thinks I’m cheating. “Just busy.”

“Are you okay?”

Still with the questions. Wasn’t I the one who was asking them? What were they again? They flash their grubby hands across my brain and I see instantly only an introvert would push a lover out the door.

Gene leaves half an hour later, satisfied I’m not having an affair, and in other ways, too. On his way out, he’s turned his clinical attention to hygiene, and the remnants of our conjugation now lie imprisoned in latex in the bin, where they belong.

I lay in bed alone, thinking about life, my knickers elsewhere, the skirt of my dress upturned against my chest. Boyfriend satisfaction level: well, he’s cute, like I said. And out to prove a point today. A tick on my Physical Union Self-Satisfaction Indicator. I have a job I love, a roof over my head, a supportive family, fabulous friends.



And an aching desire to find the truth about Who I Am.

I revise the scant things I remember about Chaos Theory. I started out studying Science to save us from a climate crunch with my amazing physics, but wound up merging into English Lit because, as my mother says, *Words can be powerful*. Now it seems this wasn't me Following My Heart as I claimed, but instead veering crazily from one road to another. Chaos Theory in applied form.

Again, I digress.

I close my eyes and think of the many paths before me. When I choose one it will change me, which will decide my next path, which will change me again and decide my next path, and so on and so on catapulting me through a giant feedback system into eternity or as close to it as I can humanly get.

Which sounds like a recipe for getting completely lost. In other words, where I am now.

Time to think logically. If I call the present A and my future Z, how many Zs are there? And which Z do I want? And how can I get there, when making a decision may shoot me down entirely the wrong path?

Again, like where I am now.

Perhaps I need a Z Register. Yes! First, I need to consider all my Zs! I jump out of bed and hunt absentmindedly for my knickers while my brain races across the likely outcomes of my life.

Oh, knickers be damned, I need to get this down on paper. Get back to you later.



**Feminism, romance
and gardening collide
in a quirky story of self-discovery**



The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl

Candice Kelly is a modern woman who no longer knows where she's heading.

Or what she wants from life. Or who she is.

After she believes she's "failed" a simple personality test at a Personal Development Day, there's only one conclusion to make: she's misplaced herself somewhere along the way.

In looking for herself, Candice lets us in on her hilariously quirky world of friendship and family, of laughter and love, and of the tough decisions that face us all about our ambitions for life.

Join Candice as she travels her roller-coaster path of discovery to find out where she needs to be, and the person she truly is.

Filled with unforgettable characters and inescapable truths, *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* is an exuberant and joyous romp about choosing your own destiny.

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Joni Page lives in beautiful Adelaide in friendly South Australia. She holds degrees in psychology and teaching, and Honours in education.

Joni lovingly crafts stories about people who are asking themselves big questions about what they want from life. Things don't always go their way, but they are brave and persistent, and they triumph.

Joni is grateful to have been part of the award-winning anthology *The Sound of Silence: Journeys Through Miscarriage*.

She is an obsessive gardener and a courageous cook.

