

Tantalising tales for a cool new read

Short dips, happy swims and sunny novellas support the oceans that inspired them

ADELAIDE, South Australia, Australia 28/4/2026

Books of short stories are often forgotten in the melee of modern life.

But author Joni Page believes they're just right for today's short-on-time, short-on-attention lifestyle.

"We often don't have the time or the energy to read a whole novel. That's where short stories can really make a difference. They're a quick-fix solution in our time-poor culture."

Joni explains, "It's important in today's complex world to have access to uplifting stories about resolving challenges. That's the main theme of all my writing. This collection is story after story of intriguing challenges and surprising resolutions."

The title *Beach Shorts – a Sandthology* reveals a lively sense of humour by the author. "An anthology is traditionally a collection of stories by different authors. But this collection is so diverse in nature that it needed a special name. When we came up with *sandthology* it fit the book perfectly!

She needs fresh air and sunshine. She grabs her keys and jacket and drives to the beach, dawdles along the water's edge, eyes downcast, searching the shoals of shells drained onto the sand. She picks up a specimen here and there: some she keeps, some she discards. She skims a few small, smooth, flat pebbles along the water, feeling a restlessness within her. But the beach has done its job, and home she goes.

From the story 'Bones'

But the stories are not all just about the beach. "The topics are diverse – some are about love, some careers, some are interesting dabbles into the past and some into the future."

The theme of facing challenges and coming out victorious was also reflected in Joni Page's debut novel, *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl*. Released last year, the novel follows a young woman facing an identity crisis and is filled with happy and probing questions about what is important to our lives.

Beach Shorts – a Sandthology and *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* are both available from Joni's author shop at jonipage.com, at all SA Dymocks bookshops, and at Dillons Bookshop and Matilda Bookshop in South Australia, on Kobo as eBook and orderable through your local bookshop.

You can find Joni Page on Instagram, bluesky and twitter and at her website, jonipage.com, where she runs a very fine blog.

Joni is available for interview at:

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**This article has been drafted
for your convenience**

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Order through bookshops worldwide

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Beach Shorts - a Sandthology

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Joni Page

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Turning old disasters into a new direction

How an Australian author turned the pandemic into a new career

ADELAIDE, South Australia, Australia 28/4/2026

When the covid pandemic hit, lives everywhere were disrupted. But one of Australia's newest authors saw it as a time of opportunity.

"We were at home more, everything was done online, I was getting our groceries home delivered, and the onerous amount of time I was spending in my car just fell away. It left a nice little spot to stop and consider getting into the book business."

"I had a heap of material to get out into the world, and I wanted to publish it independently."

Joni knew it would be a massive undertaking to do alone. So she asked for help from someone she knew had the skills to help. "My husband saw the potential as we started investigating what would be required. He has amazing visual and technological talents that I don't have, so together we covered a lot of bases. We decided to take the big step of setting up our own independent publisher in 2023. We named our company Potato & Leek after our Irish and Welsh heritage. And because our books are like the warm, nurturing comfort you get from a bowl of delicious potato and leek soup!"

The pair were excited when last year's book, *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* was picked up by various bookshops around Adelaide. "We were so grateful for the faith Dymocks and Dillons and Matilda Bookshops showed in us. It's a thrill to sell our books through such dynamic companies."

Potato & Leek are now publishing their second book, *Beach Shorts – a Sandthology*, a collection of optimistic short stories about diverse life challenges. "Short stories are perfect for today's hectic pace and complex world," Joni says. "And each little story showcases people at a crossroads, seeking their truth, following their heart, taking a deep breath and lurching towards opportunity."

If Joni has turned the disaster of the pandemic into a success story, perhaps this is an example of life imitating art?

"Absolutely," says Joni. "Finding that inner 'formidable' is really important to everyone during testing times, whether it is steering ourselves through a pandemic, setting up a new company, or navigating any of life's other challenges. This started with us feeling isolated because of the pandemic, but I now have a larger community than ever, with over 20,000 followers across social media, It brings me so much joy. It's wonderful to connect with others who love books, and also with fellow gardeners!"

You can find Joni Page on Instagram, Bluesky and X, and at her website, jonipage.com, where she runs a very fine blog.

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