



FIONA KIDMAN

writer.

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What Readers Are Saying About 'Songs From the Violet Cafe' :

"First choice on my 'Kiwi Christmas Gift Book' list is this wonderfully evocative novel." *Philippa Barrett, Next magazine*

"Kidman is at the peak of her considerable powers. This is a cleverly structured novel, converging upon the central episode in much the same way as scientists have the universe contracting to a dense hole which explodes and expands again. At its heart is the power of sexual love." *John McCrystal, North & South*

'Songs from the Violet Cafe' is Number 2 on the New Zealand Booksellers' Best sellers list for the second week running. It featured at Number One on Hedley's Bookshop list a week after it's release.

The Launch

'Songs from the Violet Cafe' was launched at Unity Books by Witi Ihimaera on October 8. What a stunning and wonderful crowd of people. Thanks to everyone who came.

Mind you, I nearly didn't make it there myself because Ian and I got caught in the biggest traffic jam imaginable in the middle of Wellington, on the way to pick up



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several trays of tarte framboises from Dorothy's Patisserie Chocolaterie in Cuba Street. I ordered these at Witi's suggestion, because he thought we should serve something that Violet Trench served at the Violet Cafe. Dorothy's stayed open until we got there; we screeched to a halt opposite Unity's door where four fantastic young booksellers sprinted across the road and weaved their way back to the shop bearing the tartes framboises. Tilly's Team in full flight. What would we do without Unity Books!

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The tartes were beautiful, by the way. Dorothy's Patisserie was founded in 1930 and is a Wellington institution. The proprietors never let you down.

It was great to be able to welcome newly arrived French Ambassador, His Excellency Jean-Michel Marlaud and Madame Marlaud to the launch party, along with other members of the French Embassy staff.

Touring For The Book

Last month found me in various places, here and in Australia, on tour for the book. The Brisbane Writers Festival featured a lineup of fascinating international writers, not least Witi Ihimaera and myself, who were both sponsored by the New Zealand Book Council (this section isn't about modesty!). I was particularly interested to meet and spend time with Paul Kingsnorth, the brilliant young environmental advocate from Britain, author of