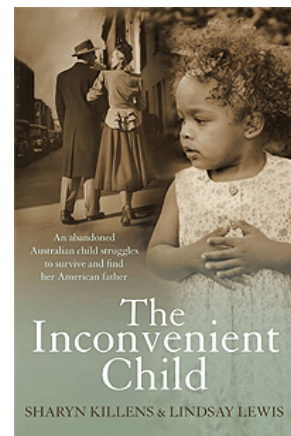


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DID GOD ABANDON THE INCONVENIENT CHILD?

“Absolutely not,” says Sharyn Killens. “Even as a small child I prayed to Him to help me escape the terrible beatings and desperate situations of my childhood and He always answered my prayers. It’s just that sometimes He took longer than I had hoped.” Sharyn Killens is talking about her faith in God as she tells of her extraordinary life, revealed in her just released Biography, *The Inconvenient Child*.

Sharyn Killens is better known as Sharyn Crystal, a successful Australian singer and entertainer. But her life wasn't always glamorous and her childhood was at times, a living hell. *The Inconvenient Child* is the true account of her harrowing journey to success and her quest to discover her identity.



Born in Sydney Australia to a blue-eyed blond mother and an African-American serviceman father, Sharyn was abandoned in squalid foster care soon after birth. It was 1948, the White Australia Policy was in place and illegitimate children, particularly of mixed race, were shunned in post World War II Australia. So her mother did all she could to distance herself from her inconvenient child.

Ironically, Sharyn’s first experience of a loving home was as a two year old when she was rescued by black American champion boxer Freddy Dawson and given a home in a house of ill fame in the back streets of Sydney’s red light district, Kings Cross. This irony is brought into focus when she is then put in a convent orphanage - a house of God - at age five where she is repeatedly beaten and abused by a demented nun. “I would pray to God to make her stop,” says Sharyn. “Eventually He answered my prayers.”

As a troubled teenager, Sharyn suffered further ill treatment in notorious juvenile institutions but her faith helped her to survive. God answered her prayers and through courage and perseverance, she achieved her singing dream becoming popular entertainer Sharyn Crystal and over thirty years, won awards and acclaim performing in night clubs, daytime television shows and as headline guest entertainer on luxury cruise ship stages; all the while keeping her past a secret from her fans and her friends.

“But I didn’t know who I was. For forty years I begged my mother to reveal my African-American father’s name,” says Sharyn. “I remember the silence that night, as I waited for her to finally answer my question. I called it a holy silence because I could feel God’s presence in those seconds before she said, “Thaddeus Killens”. I scribbled my father’s name on a piece of paper and held it to my heart and thanked God.”

The amazing outcome of that discovery and Sharyn's journey to find her African-American heritage continues in this remarkable story which includes a situation in which Sharyn believes involved Divine intervention.

The Inconvenient Child charts Sharyn Killens' life from her horrendous childhood, through her colourful and sometimes desperate times in Kings Cross but it's also a story of redemption, hope and joy as Sharyn's faith in God transcends all situations.

Her final triumph over the cards life dealt her, transported Sharyn to New York, Los Angeles then to North Carolina where this lost daughter found the belonging she had always yearned for. Here she discovered a loving family and her African-American slavery roots. How she gets there and what she discovers en-route, makes for riveting reading.

Sharyn's inspirational story was **featured on ABC TV's 7.30 Report** and in just six weeks, ***The Inconvenient Child*** is fast becoming a best seller in book stores around Australia.

Sharyn Killens and friend and co-Author Lindsay Lewis, are also proving very popular event speakers. Their close relationship and music background makes for an inspiring and emotional author talk, keeping their audience enthralled as they recount Sharyn's story and her often difficult journey through life. A surprise and well received end to their author talk, is their stirring rendition of a much-loved song. The women have been close friends for twenty years and met during their time as entertainers.

To arrange for Sharyn and Lindsay to speak at your next event, or for more information, please contact: Miracle Publishing Australia on: 02-9460-8050 or Mobile: 042-999-8885
eMail to: media@miraclepublishing.com.au **Website:** www.TheInconvenientChild.com

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