



## Liane Moriarty

**The Last Anniversary**  
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### **How did you arrive at the idea of Scribbly Gum Island and the Munro Baby mystery?**

I went on a picnic to a small, beautiful island on the Hawkesbury River near Sydney and I thought what a great location for a novel. So 'Scribbly Gum Island' was inspired by the real 'Dangar Island.' To be honest, I can't really remember how I came up with the idea of the Munro Baby Mystery. I think perhaps it was inspired by the story of the Mary Celeste. Ever since I first heard that story when I was a child, I've been intrigued by it and imagined what it would be like to go on board the ship after it was found abandoned.

### **Why did you decide to narrate the novel from the perspectives of multiple characters rather than Sophie, the heroine of *The Last Anniversary*?**

Too many of my characters had secrets and some were never revealed to anyone. So, if I'd only had narrated the novel from Sophie's perspective we could never have learned those secrets.

### **Many of your characters are in their late thirties and seem dissatisfied with their love lives, their careers, their children, and their lack of children. What explains your fictional fascination with this decade of adult life?**

At the time of writing this book I was in my late thirties myself and I had just broken up with my partner of three years after he made the unexpected announcement that he never wanted to have children. The ticking of my biological clock was an obsession — so it's not surprising that it made its way into the book! On the other hand I also wanted to show (perhaps I was trying to convince myself) that women who have the husband, the baby etc. are not necessarily blissfully happy.

### **Sophie and Callum's attraction to one another plays itself out unexpectedly. At any point did you consider allowing their dalliance to turn into a full-blown extramarital affair?**

No. Both of them had too much integrity. Also, Sophie was too fond of Grace and Callum was still in love with his wife. The only reason their flirtation went as far as it did was because Grace had manipulated both of them. I was more interested in how people can choose *not* to love.

### **What's your next project?**

I've just finished a children's book (not based on Gublet McDublet!) and I'm currently working on my third novel.