

Winner of the 2016 ALS Gold Medal

Zoe Morrison – *Music and Freedom*

The title a response to Milton Friedman's *Capitalism and Freedom*, the novel offers an alternative to the harsh economic worldview embodied in Edward, the husband of Alice, the central character of the novel.

Structured in three movements like Rachmaninoff's second concerto, the novel follows the life of Alice, exiled from Australia at age eleven, exiled from the home she finds in music by an abusive and tyrannical husband, exiled ultimately from her sense of self. But she discovers both hope and a different kind of home in the innovative music of her son and his lover Emily.

This is a political novel drawing energy from Morrison's academic work on abuse and social dysfunction. But it is a deeply moving account of the journey of one woman, the slow fragmented resurrection towards hope, towards freedom, towards a home in love.