

Home truths lie beneath facade



TRUST

BY KATE VEITCH
VIKING, RRP \$32.95

I was hooked by this Melbourne story of a flawed middle-class family.

On the surface, everything looks hunky dory. Susanna Greenfield, a thoughtful art teacher, is married to Gerry, a smooth and handsome architect. Stella-Jean, who has a flair for fashion design, and Sebastian, a terrific tennis player, are their likable teenage kids.

Susanna often reminds herself how lucky she is, but Gerry's belittling comments on the tennis court and his indifference to her artistic ambitions reveal their fundamental disconnection. When Susanna leases an art studio without first consulting him, their relationship starts to shift.

Each character struggles with problems, including Sebastian, who agonises over his sexuality and Susanna's mother, Jean, estranged from her troubled adult daughter, Angie.

A tragic accident rips away the facade of Susanna's perfect marriage to reveal confronting home truths. The novel, Kate Veitch's second, portrays the complexity of family relationships. Her confident exploration of a mature woman losing her innocence and gaining control of her life is revelatory. **C.K.**

Verdict: immensely enjoyable