

## ON BUFFALOS

### SHORT FICTION: ELLA BEGBIE

Who gets to decide what our experiences mean - the person who lives them, the person who tells them, or the person who reads them?

*On Buffalos* explores the complicated relationship between experience and storytelling, questioning our instinct to impose order, meaning and resolution upon lives that rarely unfold so neatly. Through a fragmented first-person narrative, moments of humour, memory and reflection sit beside the commentary of Rowena, an editor whose presence complicates the boundary between telling a story and having that story shaped by someone else.

At once intimate and self-aware, the work draws attention to the invisible forces that influence the stories we tell: expectations of genre, audience, authenticity and the promise of a satisfying ending. By allowing the process of editing to become part of the text itself, *On Buffalos* turns storytelling into a contest over interpretation and authority. It asks whether an experience can ever be faithfully represented once it has been transformed into narrative.