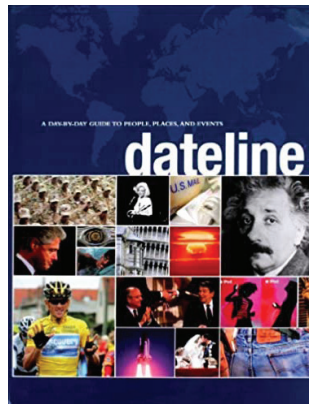
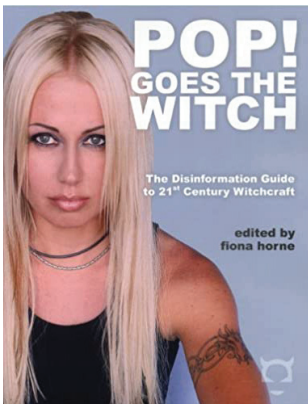




I love myth and magic, history and legend.  
 I live in the city but find peace in our local park.  
 I've been a uni student (politics/journalism).  
 The first student editor of the uni magazine.  
 A music journalist, interviewing everyone from  
 Tori Amos to Guns N' Roses and Metallica.  
 I've worked for surfing magazines, newspapers,  
 weekly women's titles, Women's Health, Dolly  
 and Girlfriend, Spellcraft and many more.  
 I've contributed to and edited books on history,  
 witchcraft and personal development.

# Serene Conneeley

I was editor of Kids Titles at ACP/Bauer for  
 several years – Little Friends, Disney Princess,  
 Frozen, Spider-Man, Star Wars and many more.







# New Book

# The Swan Maiden

**An original Australian faery tale**

Once upon a time, a young girl cried all her sadness into the lake of her local city park, and a lonely black swan drank a tear and was transformed...

For Signet, being human is much harder than she imagined. There are machines that are trying to kill her, people who want to replace her, and dizzying new emotions she'd rather not feel. When she finds herself torn between two wildly different worlds, she must discover how much she's willing to sacrifice, where she really belongs, and who she truly is.

Enter a world where birds shapeshift into wizards, women emerge from sealskins, swans transform into maidens, and love is the most powerful enchantment of all.



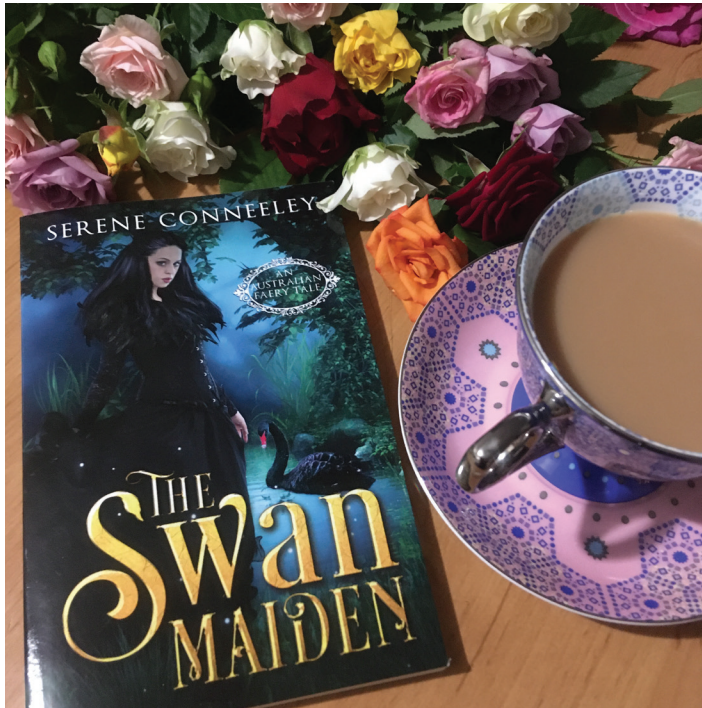


*The Swan Maiden* is a story of healing, transformation, female agency and finding your true self, whatever the form. It has little in common with the traditional story, as it was vital to me that the swan maiden make the choice to transform or not. She is no victim.

The book was partly inspired by the swan family in my backyard park. It brings me so much joy to watch their cygnets grow up each year, and there is a beautiful community in the park who all love them and care for them.



I'm also really grateful to Jo and the Sydney Faery Tale Ring, for our wonderful, inspiring challenging discussions and debates.



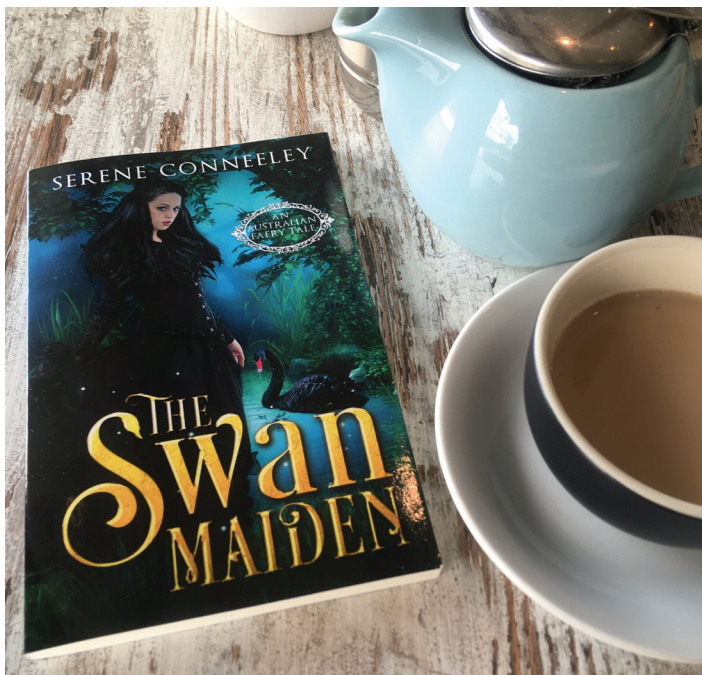
“A truly charming and uplifting tale. A bright light in the darkness the world is facing right now, and a joy to read.”

*A Licence To Quill*

“I devoured this book.

Such a wonderful story has been woven, perfect for the young and the young at heart.”

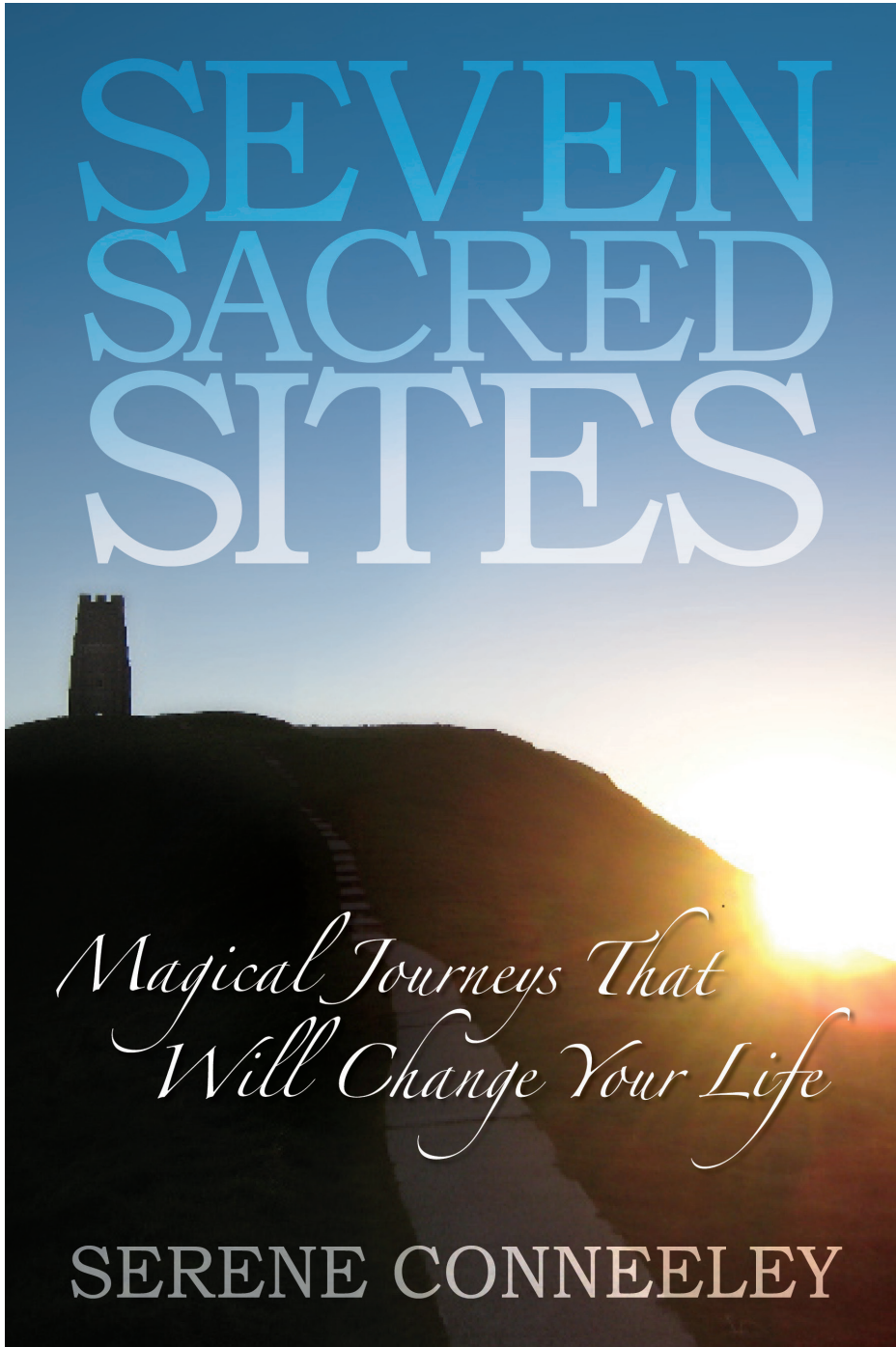
★ ★ ★ ★ ★



“I was caught hook, line and sinker... swept into a modern-day world where magic still exists and love can save us. This is a wondrous, beautifully told tale.”

*The Book Bubble*



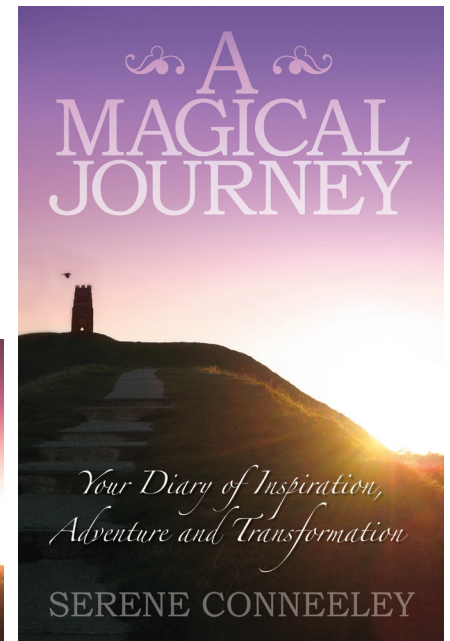


## My First Book

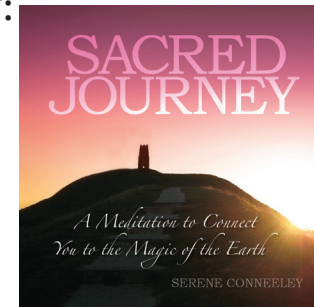
In retrospect, *Seven Sacred Sites: Magical Journeys That Will Change Your Life* has some faery tale elements, for it is a travel guide to sacred places, a history of the rituals that have been performed there by indigenous wisdom keepers since ancient times, and a heroine's journey of shamanic magic, visiting the underworld, searching for fae realms, facing villains, and discovering the inner wisdom we each hold within us.

## Companion Titles

*A Magical Journey: Your Diary of Inspiration, Adventure and Transformation*

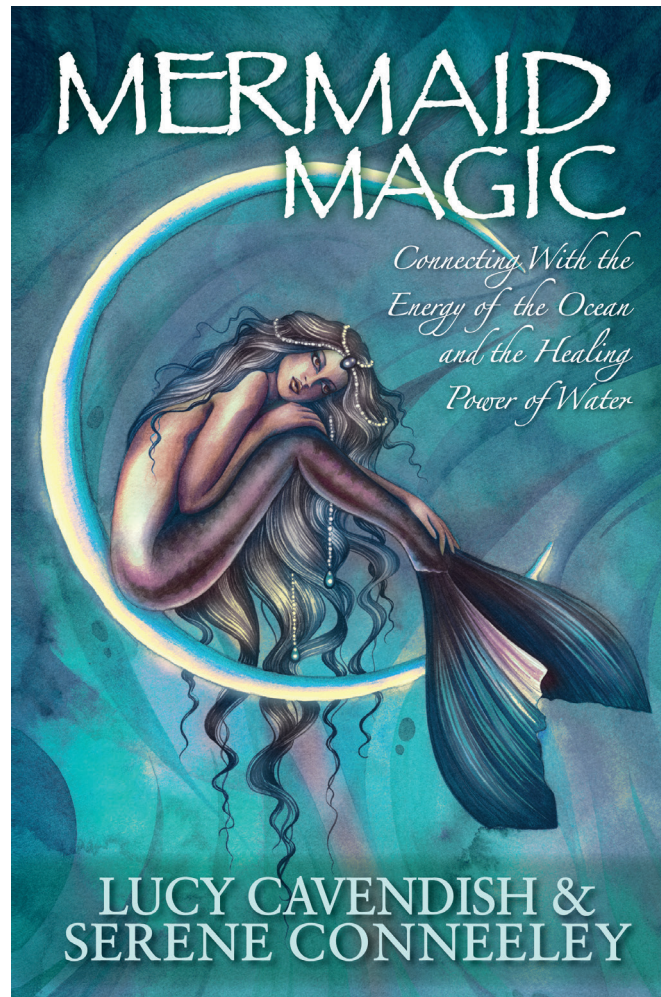


*Sacred Journey: A Meditation To Connect You To the Magic of the Earth*





Then I wrote three books with my friend Lucy Cavendish – *Faery Magic*, *Mermaid Magic* and *Witchy Magic* – about real magic, history, legend, myth and faery tale.

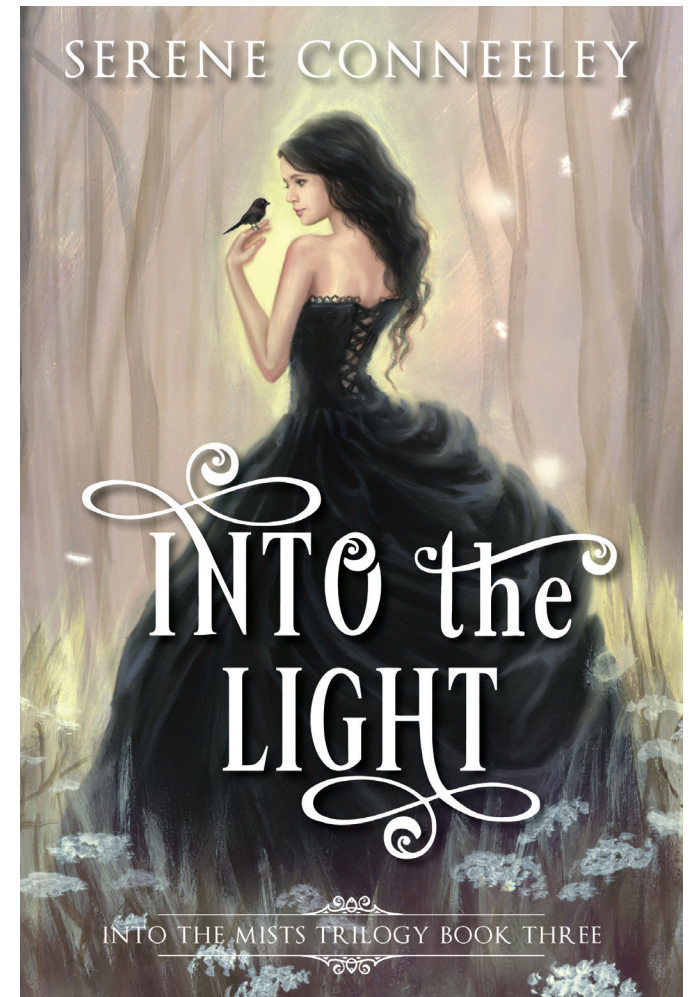
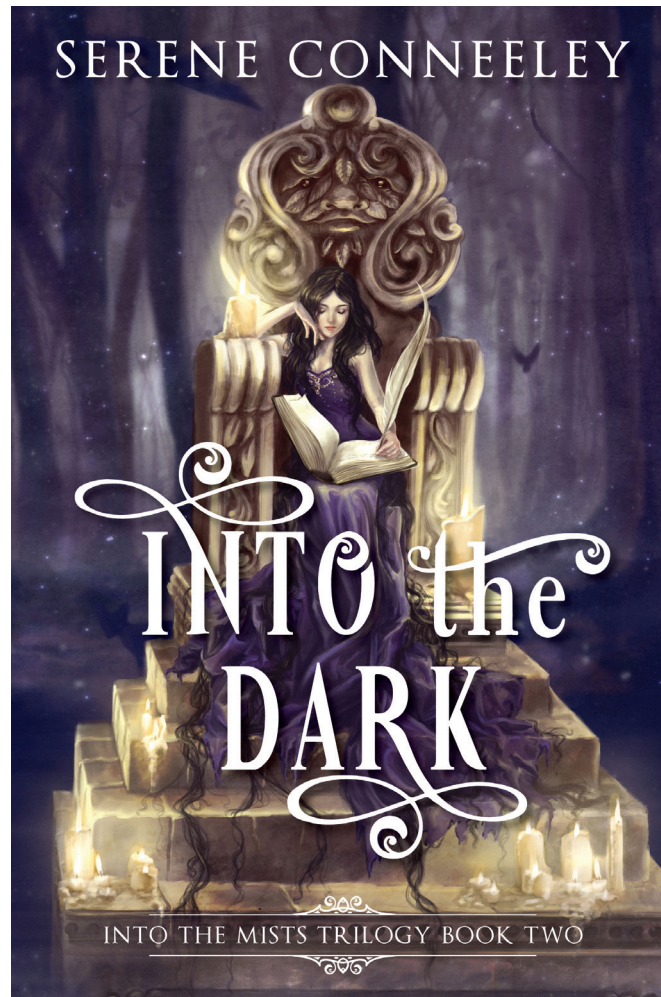




My first novel emerged from the writing and research of *Witchy Magic*.

*Into the Mists* is the journey of Australian girl Carlie, who travels across the world physically as well as into a realm of magic emotionally, aided by a wise woman/witch she mistook for a monster, and some elemental beings who bestow on her gifts, wisdom and tasks, just like faery godmothers do.

The trilogy is three stages of her journey, through darkness into hope and a new chance at life and love.





My second trilogy, set within the same world but focusing on Carlie's best friend Rhiannon, has even more faery tale elements, especially the final book, where mother and daughter, decades apart, go on their own journeys into the dark woods of Broceliande Forest, facing their shadows, meeting the Lady of the Lake, and returning transformed by what they have seen and experienced.

At the heart of both trilogies though is the intense, supportive, challenging, loving, healing and transformative power of Carlie and Rhiannon's friendship. At times they have boyfriends – some good, some bad – but it is to each other that they confide in and draw strength from.

