Dear Literary Agent,

Seven years after Nell Gant held Gil's funeral, he walks into her lambing shed while she's up to her elbow in a ewe. He grabs the horns and gets flung into the hurdle. The husband at home would have known better. Nell spent twenty-three mornings walking the shore for Gil, and now all she can think to tell him is that she gave his boots away.

After the wreck, Nell planted Gil's milk tooth beneath a pear tree to hear him say her name once more. When a stranger with his face did just that, she bolted the door. Jude took a room above the cooper's. Weeks later she brought him one of Gil's collars. He asked her to stop bringing him Gil's things, then invited her to a play where he worked the wooden moon. They got the moon up all right, but the king had to die in broad daylight to the sound of them trying not to laugh. By autumn it was Jude she went upstairs to ask home. Their daughter is six now.

Gil is looking for the woman and boy he loves. Nell means to help him, but before she can get out the door Jude spits a pear blossom into his hand. Pieces of Gil's teeth have come home too, grafted onto the tree that grew Jude. As forty new people begin to grow, black salt works its way up her husband's leg. The first boy to emerge can sign Gil's name, but he'd rather go on making loops across Nell's kitchen table. She comes to love him for that. Then she learns that a chip of Jude's tooth could let her husband live on in the boy's body. Nell still has that chip, and the boy trusts her enough to fall asleep in her bed.

THE ORCHARD TAKES A HUSBAND is an adult folkloric fantasy novel about marriage and grief, complete at 79,000 words. It will appeal to readers drawn to the collision of family history, grief and the impossible in Adrienne Young's *The Unmaking of June Farrow*.

I live in Melbourne, Australia, where I work in IT. I write fantasy under the name Naria Khan. Thank you for considering my work.

Kind regards,
Naria Khan