In July 1872 three Sisters of St Joseph and one lay woman arrived at The Vale, a village near Bathurst, New South Wales. They had come from Adelaide in response to an invitation to establish the first Josephite foundation in New South Wales. Sister Teresa McDonald was the leader or Superior of the founding community. This book explores her early life and her time as the first Provincial of the Congregation in South Australia. It also gives particular attention to Teresa’s short years at The Vale, her struggle with ill health and her death in January 1876.

The author, Marie Crowley has had a lifelong association with the Sisters of St Joseph, Perthville. Most of her professional life has been spent in teaching. She holds a Masters Degree in Theology (Melbourne) and in 2009 was awarded a PhD by the Australian Catholic University for her exploration into the relationship between theology and art.

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