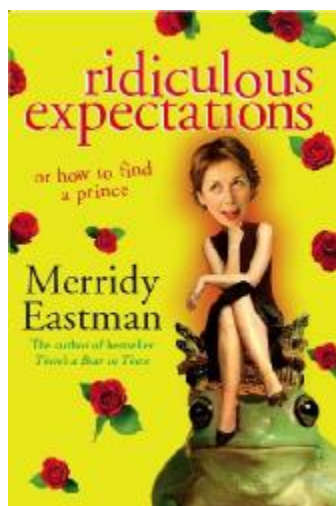


NON-FICTION

RIDICULOUS EXPECTATIONS

Merridy Eastman



Publisher: Allen and Unwin
Genre: Memoir/Non-fiction
Pub date: Late 2006
Format: B format
Rights: UK/US & Foreign Rights Available
Page extent: 400 pages approximately

Previous Titles

There's a Bear in There (and He Wants Swedish) (2002)

The next exciting instalment in the life of Merridy Eastman, star of *There's a Bear in There*. After giving up her job in the Sydney brothel and having been ditched by her builder boyfriend for a waitress named Nancy, Merridy writes a best selling book, goes to the UK and falls in love with a man who she hasn't noticed but who has been there all along. Mostly true, with a pinch or two of creative licence, *Ridiculous Expectations* is a delightful warm tale of a fabulous life.

PRAISE FOR MERRIDY EASTMAN

'Eastman's wonderfully titled tales from the darkside – *There's a Bear in There (and he wants Swedish)* – are always witty, sometimes scathing, occasionally poignant.'

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

'This author is a natural writer with a gift for prose that has timing, comedy, insight, pathos and glorious readability.'

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

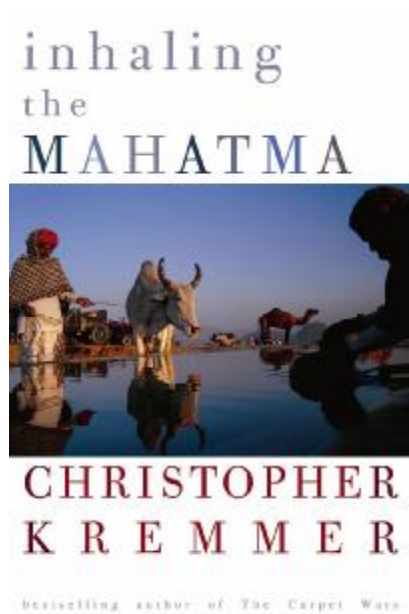
'The book is funny, tender at times, full of compassion and reveals a few secrets about an industry which a lot of people happily ignore.'

DAILY NEWS

About the Author: After graduating from NIDA, Merridy Eastman performed in a swag of theatre productions. In the late eighties she became a *Play School* presenter and later had major roles in many sitcoms and commercial soap operas, including Channel Seven's *Always Greener*. *There's a Bear in There (and He Wants Swedish)* her frank, funny account of working as a receptionist in a Sydney brothel was published by Allen and Unwin. Her semi-autobiographical, *Ridiculous Expectations*, is to be published by Allen & Unwin in late 2006.

INHALING THE MAHATMA

Christopher Kremmer



Publisher: HarperCollins
Genre: Non-fiction
Pub date: May 2006
Format: Paperback
Rights: All translation US & UK rights
Page Extent: 450

Previous titles

The Carpet Wars (2002)
Bamboo Palace (2003)

'When a Gandhi dies, nobody is safe.'

An assassination and a romance. A hijacking, several nuclear explosions and a religious experience...just some of the ingredients in the latest tour de force from the best-selling author of *The Carpet Wars*.

In the searing summer of 2004, Christopher Kremmer returns to India, a country in the grip of enormous and sometimes violent change. As a young reporter in the 1990s, he first encountered this ancient and complex civilisation. Now, embarking on a *yatra*, or pilgrimage, he travels the dangerous frontier where religion and politics face off. Tracking down the players in a decisive decade, he takes us inside the enigmatic Gandhi dynasty, and introduces an operatic cast of political Brahmins, 'cyber coolies', low-caste messiahs and wrestling priests.

A sprawling portrait of India at the crossroads, *Inhaling the Mahatma* is also an intensely personal story about coming to terms with a dazzlingly different culture, as the author's fate is entwined with a cosmopolitan Hindu family of Old Delhi, and a guru who changes his life.

PRAISE FOR *THE CARPET WARS*

'[A] richly investigated chronicle...Travel narrative merges seamlessly here with the bloodstained tale of a blasted region. This books, in its sobriety, puts a human and – despite the random, ritualistic violence – oddly sympathetic face on a part of the world that history, ancient and modern, has brought home to all of us'

Tracy Lee Simons, WASHINGTON POST

'Kremmer writes compellingly...Undaunted by the contradictions of this strange world, he makes his way through Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and other places much as the reader might, with a normal terror of gunfights in the street but eager to meet people, to start conversations and to listen. The politics may be incomprehensible, but the ordinary people emerge from his story as real individuals we can certainly understand...people who wipe the grit of war from their eyes and beat it off their carpets and then, somehow, carry on with their lives. Just as we do.'

Alan Ryan, CHICAGO POST

One of the best books I have read this year.

David Verran, SUNDAY STAR-TIMES

About the Author: Christopher Kremmer was born in Sydney and educated at the University of Canberra. A former South Asia and Vietnam correspondent for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, he is a regular contributor to the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*. His previous books include *The Carpet Wars* and *Bamboo Palace*.

HOTEL INDONESIA

Mark Bowling



Publisher: Hachette
Genre: Non-Fiction
Pub date: September 2006
Format: C Format
Rights: UK/US & Foreign Rights Available
Page extent: 320

A correspondent and his family check in for a life-changing adventure

Foreign correspondent Mark Bowling covered the most tumultuous events in recent Indonesian history, from the resignation of President Suharto to the release of Xanana Gusmao and the independence of East Timor. He was not alone on this posting, his wife Kim and two young children moved with him from Australia to Jakarta and had to settle into a very different life there. Mark describes the political upheavals with the immediacy of someone who was in the centre of the action, and he writes with honesty and warmth about the personal aspects of being a foreign correspondent and father.

About the author: Mark Bowling has been the ABC's Indonesian correspondent since 1998 covering the country's social and political upheaval, including the fall of Suharto. He has written a book about his adventures and time spent living there which Hachette Livre will publish in 2006.

GOGO MAMA

Sally Sara



Publisher: Pan Macmillan
Genre: Non-Fiction
Pub date: September 2006
Format: Trade Paperback
Rights: US/UK & Foreign rights available
Page extent: 250 approx

GOGO MAMA profiles the lives of 12 women across Africa.

The women include a genocide survivor from Rwanda, a Batwa pygmy from the jungles of the Congo, a former rebel commander from Liberia, a freed slave from Ghana, a grandmother fighting AIDS in South Africa, a 90-year old diva from Zanzibar, a famous belly dancer from Egypt, a Maasai leader from Kenya and a pioneering midwife from Timbuktu. They talk about their lives in some of the most hostile and exotic parts of the continent.

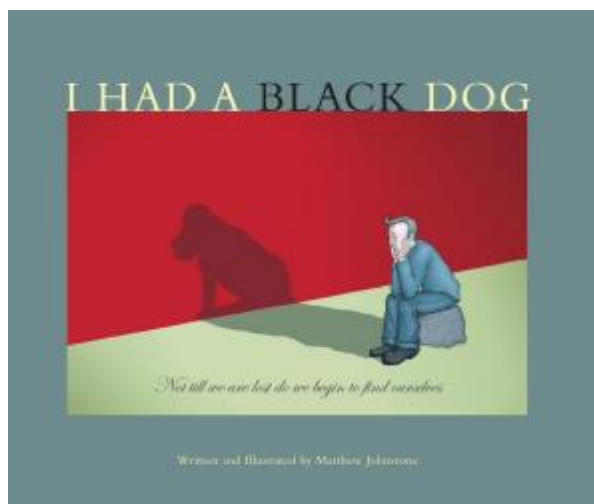
Author Sally Sara travelled solo across Africa to gather the interviews from the slave castles of West Africa, the townships of Johannesburg, the cliff top villages of Mali, to the frontline of the war in Sudan and the nightclubs of Cairo.

GOGO is the Zulu word for Grandmother. **MAMA** is Mother.

About the Author: Sally Sara is an award winning foreign correspondent with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. She spent the past five years living and working in Africa. Sally has reported from more than 25 countries including Iraq, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa. She was appointed as the ABC's Africa correspondent at the age of 29. Sally began her career at a remote radio station in Australia's outback.

I HAD A BLACK DOG

Matthew Johnstone



Publisher: Pan Macmillan
Genre: Non-Fiction
Pub date: August 2005
Format: Gift book format
Rights: UK & Foreign rights available
Page extent: 48

Ever since Winston Churchill popularised the phrase Black Dog to describe the hellish bouts of depression he experienced for much of his life, it has become the shorthand for the disease that millions of people suffer, often in shame and silence.

I Had A Black Dog is Matthew Johnstone's illuminating, moving and ultimately uplifting insight into what it is like to live with a Black Dog as a companion and the strength and support that can be found within and around us to tame it. Black Dog can be a terrible beast, but bringing him out of the shadows is the first step toward recovery.

There are many different breeds of Black Dog affecting millions of people from all walks of life. The Black Dog is an equal opportunity mongrel.

Stunningly illustrated, totally inspiring, this book is a must-have for anyone who has ever had a Black Dog, or knows someone who has.

Paperback

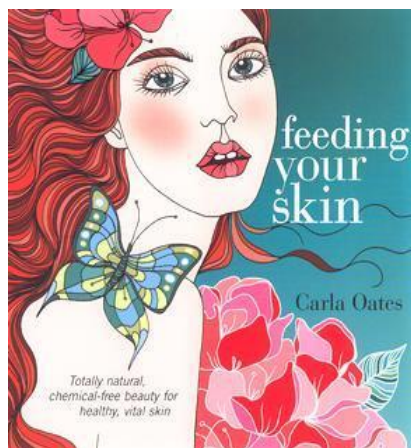
17,000 sales to date (copies in trade)

10,000 special sales (Andrews McMeel) US – includes Canada

About the Author: Matthew Johnstone is an artist, writer and exhibited photographer. New Zealand born, he's worked in advertising in Sydney, San Francisco and New York. Matthew is working on a new book entitled, *The Good and Bad Alphabet of the Human Condition* (sample available). He now resides in Sydney with his wife and daughter.

FEEDING YOUR SKIN

Carla Oates



Publisher: Penguin Australia
Genre: Health
Pub date: November 2004
Format: Paperback
Rights: UK/US & foreign rights available
Page extent: 167

*Totally natural,
Chemical-free beauty for
Healthy, vital skin*

'This book is for anyone who wants to nurture their skin and body kindly and safely. It has become apparent to me that women who anoint themselves with the purest of oils and botanical concoctions have the most radiant, succulent skin.'

Expensive modern skin treatments and cosmetics are accompanied by slick marketing campaigns that equate them with glamour, happiness and health. But how healthy are they? What do they contain and what are they really doing to your skin? Your skin rapidly absorbs chemicals and passes them into your bloodstream, so why would you put anything on your skin that you wouldn't be prepared to eat?

Feeding your skin is full of easy and delicious recipes you can make from everyday ingredients, for cleansers, toners, moisturisers, exfoliants, masks, lip balms, nail treatments, shampoos, sunscreens and even deodorants – in fact, everything you need to keep your face and body beautiful and healthy.

About the Author: Carla Oates has worked as a writer at a variety of magazines. Whilst working as the beauty editor for *Sunday Life*, she developed an interest in writing stories on natural beauty. She now has her own 'do it yourself' beauty column in the Body and Soul section of *The Sunday Telegraph*. Her first book, *Feeding Your Skin*, the essential modern women's cosmetic cookbook, was published by Penguin in 2004. Carla is also starting her own organic skincare range, free of synthetic chemicals.

GORGEOUS SKIN IN 30 DAYS

Erica Angyal



Publisher: Lothian Books
Genre: Non-Fiction
Pub date: September 2005
Format: Paperback
Rights: UK/US & Translation rights (except Japan) Available
Page extent: 321

Finally there is a quick, easy and comprehensive program to help you achieve healthy, vibrant and youthful skin in 30 days! This revolutionary nutritional program is supported by the most up-to-date clinical research and exposes all the beauty myths of our time. The 30-day Gorgeous Skin program is an all-inclusive nutrition and lifestyle plan. It is packed with detailed information on all the latest antioxidants, vitamins, minerals and supplements to slow down the ageing process and to improve the texture, tone and health of your skin. It also includes valuable lifestyle management tools and relaxation techniques to help you maintain lifelong health, beauty, and vitality.

The Program includes:

- **A safe three-day cleansing and detoxification plan** to rid the body of toxins, eradicate blemishes, reduce fine lines and create an even skin tone.
- **All the current information on skin superfoods and nutritional supplements for anti-ageing and wrinkle fighting** to enhance repair and regeneration of your skin cells, subdue inflammation and boost collagen production.
- **Hundreds of delicious new recipes, facts and healthy skin tips** as part of a complete program for natural health and beauty.
- **How to identify and use the skin protectors to reverse or slow down the ageing process** and avoid harmful food, lifestyle and environmental factors that accelerate ageing.
- **A 28-day beautiful skin plan for the bride-to-be** or anyone who wants to prepare for a special occasion.

PRAISE FOR ERICA ANGYAL

‘Erica gives you the secret of beauty from within. If you follow her dietary and lifestyle recommendations, your skin will show the difference within 30 days.’

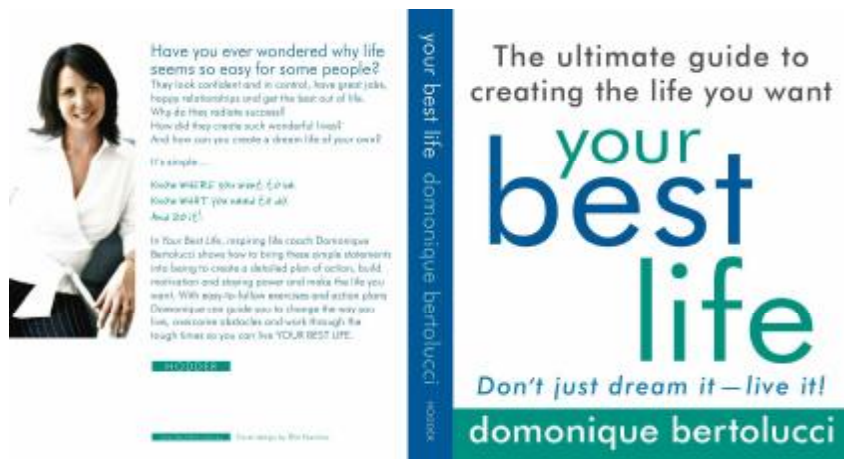
DR BARRY SEARS, AUTHOR OF *THE ZONE*

‘Those really interested in vital skin will find this book compelling and entertaining.’

DR MIKE ROIZEN, AUTHOR OF *NEW YORK TIMES* # 1 BESTSELLER
REALAGE: ARE YOU AS YOUNG AS YOU CAN BE?

About the Author: Erica Angyal is a health practitioner, nutritionist and consultant. Born in Australia, she graduated from the Sydney University of Technology with a Bachelor of Health Science. She also has a diploma of Nutrition and is a member of the Australian Traditional Medicine Society. She is currently based in Tokyo, Japan, where she works as a nutritional consultant (including Miss Universe Japan), as a health columnist for lifestyle magazines and presents regular seminars on preventative health and nutrition.

YOUR BEST LIFE DON'T JUST DREAM IT — LIVE IT! Domonique Bertolucci



Publisher: Hachette Livre Australia
Genre: Lifestyle
Pub date: May 2006
Format: B + Format
Rights: UK/US & Translation Rights Available
Page extent: 304

Know WHERE you want to be.
Know WHAT you need to do.
And DO it!

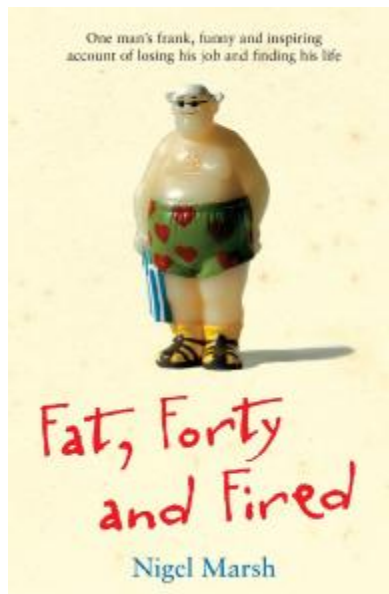
Have you ever wondered why life seems so easy for some people?
They look confident and in control, have great jobs, happy relationships and get the best out of life. Why do they radiate success?
How did they create such wonderful lives?
And how can you create a dream life of your own?
It's simple ...

In *Your Best Life*, inspiring life coach Domonique Bertolucci shows how to bring these simple statements into being to create a detailed plan of action, build motivation and staying power and make the life you want. With easy-to-follow exercises and action plans, Domonique can guide you to change the way you live, overcome obstacles and work through the tough times so you can live YOUR BEST LIFE.

About the Author: Domonique Bertolucci is Australia's leading personal coach. An expert in personal improvement, she is the resident personal coach at Cosmopolitan and Vice President of the International Coach Federation in New South Wales. A former international corporate high-flyer, Domonique is now the director of Success Strategies, a coaching practice with clients through Australia, the UK and USA. Her first book, *Your Best Life* will be published in May 2006 by Hachette Livre Australia. Website: www.success-strategies.com.au

FAT, FORTY AND FIRED

Nigel Marsh



Publisher: Bantam Australia
Genre: Non-Fiction
Pub date: August 2005; Piatrans UK. June 2006
Format: Paperback
Rights: US right available
Page extent: 287

Has sold 35,000 copies to date & still selling.

'I don't have a catchy slogan that sums up what I learnt from my year off. I do know, however, that men aren't from Mars and fat isn't a feminist issue. Men are from earth and fat is fat. I don't claim to have usable wisdom for anyone else. All I can say is that I lived the dream of dropping out and this is how it was for me...'

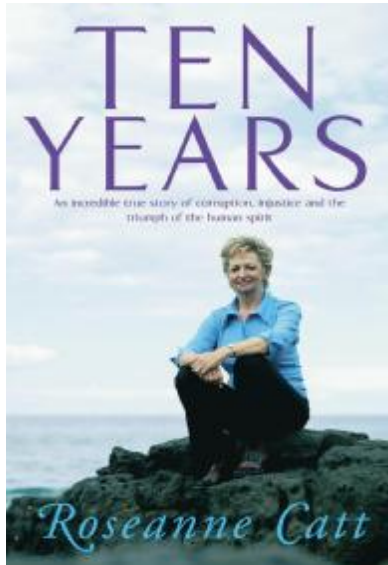
Nigel Marsh is a stressed, overweight mortgage slave struggling to balance a high-pressured career, a marriage and the demands of four small children under eight. Then the unthinkable happens - he loses his job. After the initial shock (and some unpleasant surgery) Nigel decides to embrace life outside the office and spend a year taking stock. What follows is a candid and often hilarious account of how he attempts to master the art of hands-on parenting, lose 20 kilos, train for an ocean swimming race and come to terms with the growing realisation that he's an alcoholic. Along the way we discover what men (or this man) really think about sex in marriage, being good dads, work, love, football, family, religion, self-help books and sharks, just for starters.

Fat, Forty and Fired is a rare gem, a highly entertaining, thought-provoking and inspiring memoir about falling off the hamster wheel and surviving.

About the Author: Nigel Marsh is CEO of Leo Burnett, a leading communications company. Previously he was fired from his job as CEO of the advertising agency D'Arcy. Originally from England he has worked as a stand up comedian and has written articles for the *Financial Times*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and numerous advertising magazines. *Fat Forty and Fired* (Transworld Australia, August 2005). Website: www.fatfortyandfired.com

TEN YEARS

Roseanne Catt

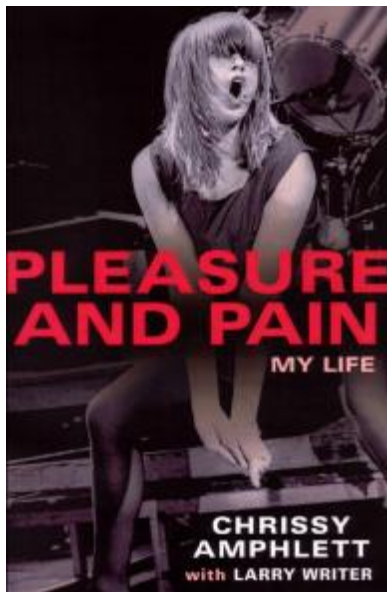


Publisher: Pan Macmillan
Genre: Non-Fiction Memoir
Pub date: October 2005
Format: Paperback
Rights: US/UK & Foreign rights available
Page extent: 325

In 1991, Roseanne Catt was sentenced to twelve years imprisonment, falsely charged with attempting to murder her husband. She was to spend ten long years behind bars before a growing public outcry over the obvious miscarriage of justice saw her released on special bail in 2001. Since then Roseanne's extraordinary case has been the subject of an 18-month judicial enquiry, resulting in a damning report delivered to the Court of Criminal Appeals in late 2004. That report shockingly exposed the dishonesty, manipulation and malice of the police officer who charged her, and the lies and deception of her husband as they successfully hoodwinked the justice system.

This is the horrifying true story of how an innocent woman came to be one of the longest-serving female prisoners in New South Wales, and of her fight for justice. It's a story of corruption and brutality – both inside and outside of jail - that will appal and outrage, and it's a story of Roseanne's extraordinary courage and spirit that will uplift and inspire.

PLEASURE AND PAIN
MY LIFE
Chrissy Amphlett



Publisher: Hachette Livre Australia
Genre: Non-Fiction
Pub date: November 2005
Format: Paperback
Rights: US/UK & Foreign Rights available
Page extent: 336

“One of the most electrifying performers on earth.”

Chrissy Amphlett is a true legend of Australian music. Here, the spellbinding performer who inspired and outraged for two decades as lead singer of Divinyls tells her own amazing story.

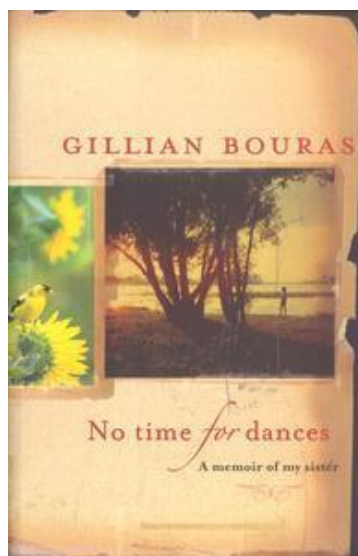
In this raw, gripping and searingly honest account, Chrissy spares no one – least of all herself. She tells of growing up a surfer chick in Geelong and losing many friends to drugs. Of starring in a nude musical and being thrown in jail while busking in Spain. She reveals how she formed Divinyls and with a unique voice, steely ambition and outrageous stage act powered them to Australian and international stardom with such classic hits as *I Touch Myself*, *Boys In Town* and *Pleasure and Pain*.

Chrissy tells how she and the band indulged in every excess thrust at them and mixed with rock royalty before her rock'n'roll dream turned to dust.

She takes us backstage at gigs in seedy suburban beer barns and huge stadiums, and into the wings during her acclaimed two-year run playing Judy Garland in *The Boy From Oz*. And then her greatest triumph, battling alcohol, drugs and a million dollars worth of debt to finally find peace and the love of her life in New York City. Brave, sad, funny, ferocious, there's never been anyone like the indomitable Chrissy Amphlett.

NO TIME FOR DANCES

Gillian Bouras



Publisher: Penguin Australia
Genre: Literary Non-Fiction Memoir
Pub date: Mid 2006
Format: B Format
Rights: US/UK/Canada & Translation
Page extent: 240

Previous Titles

A Foreign Wife (1986)
A Fair Exchange (1991)
Aphrodite and the Others (1994)
A Stranger Here (1996)
Starting Again (1999)

She let me go and disappeared . . . without a backward glance. And I, I turned away, sick at heart, but not knowing that she had just had her last birthday, not knowing that I had just seen her for the last time, that I had said goodbye to her forever. Now I wish, as much as I have ever wished for anything, that I had known, that I had been able to cage those precious minutes within the nets of gold I could not recognise as such. And that I had been somehow able to prolong those minutes into years.

Nine years ago, at the age of fifty, Gillian Bouras's sister, Jacqui, took her own life. In this book, Gillian explores what went so wrong in Jacqui's life and why her family and friends could do nothing to save her. She examines their shared childhood and their growth to womanhood and independence, picking apart the different threads of their lives and trying to find answers and solace.

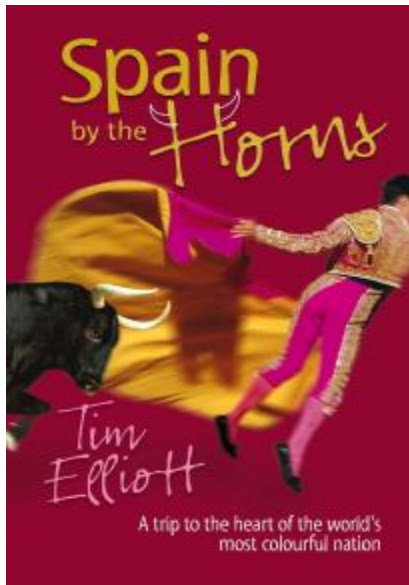
No Time for Dances is a frank, heartfelt, lyrical and compelling examination of the nature of grief and mental illness. It is also the story of a warm, delightful and fragile woman who lived much of her life in mental pain. This moving

memoir will help sufferers of mental illness and their families, and those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

About the Author: Gillian Bouras was born in Melbourne in 1945. She worked as a teacher in Australia before moving to Greece with her husband and children in 1980. She is the author of *A Foreign Wife* (1986), *A Fair Exchange* (1991), *Aphrodite and the Others* (1994) and *A Stranger Here* (1996), all published by Penguin, and all dealing with her experiences as an Australian woman in Greece. She has also produced a novel for children, *Saving Christmas*, and her shorter pieces continue to be widely published.

SPAIN BY THE HORNS

Tim Elliott



Publisher: Bantam
Genre: Travel
Pub date: December 2005
Format: Paperback
Rights: US/UK rights and translation available
Page extent: 301

'Who is Jesulin?' I asked.

'Who is Jesulin?' said Julio. 'Just the most successful matador in the history of de bools. Almost everyone you meet in Spain has something to say about Jesulin,' he said. 'Si, si, if you want to write a book about Spain, Jesulin is your man.'

Tim Elliott had always loved Spain, mainly because it seemed to stand for everything he didn't. With its dramatic history, colourful fiestas, unique cuisine and spectacular bullfights, for Tim, Spain had always been synonymous with flamboyance, passion, spontaneity and adventure. In Spain, he felt, 'people inhabited every inch of their lives'. They feasted upon it, up to the elbows. They drank red wine with lunch and smoked full-strength cigarettes.'

So when he hears about a handsome and talented young bullfighter who fills the arenas with adoring women and has been dubbed 'the Beckham of bullfighting', Tim goes in search of the man he feels sure will hold the key to the heart of this enigmatic country.

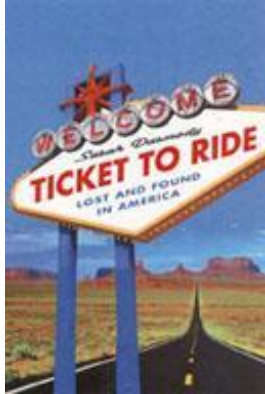
It's a fascinating quest, as he embarks on a journey through current-day Spain to discover its history, culture, people and food, all the while hoping to illuminate the complex world of glamour, corruption, eccentricity and ritual that is bullfighting.

Funny, fast-paced and revealing, *Spain by the Horns* takes you below the surface of the world's most colourful nation, to experience a Spain you'll never forget.

About the Author: Tim Elliott is an award-winning journalist and author whose work has appeared in the UK's *Financial Times* and *Sunday Times* as well as the *Australian Financial Review*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *South China Morning Post* and *Gourmet Traveller*. His first book, *The Bolivian Times* (Random House), is an account of the six months he spent working on an English-language paper in South America. *Spain by the Horns*, Tim's entertaining travel memoir about bullfighting and Spanish culture has just been published by Transworld.

TICKET TO RIDE

Sarah Darmody



Publisher: Bantam for Transworld
Genre: Non-Fiction Travel
Pub date: September 2005
Format: Paperback
Rights: US, UK and translation rights available
Page extent:368

'Imagine my total, complete, knee-trembling surprise when I won an entire nation. An actual, factual, rocks and soil, flag and anthem country. And not just any country, mind you. I won a big country. A fat country. A country with states as big as other people's countries, fifty of them, in fact. I won America...

After a lifetime of winning nothing but the right to be designated driver, Sarah Darmody strikes it rich in a contest so bizarre most people think it's an urban legend – the Green Card lottery. Her prize: the right to live and work in America forever, all for less than the price of an instant scratchie.

But it's going to cost her much more. Fingerprinted, stripped, x-rayed, measured and investigated, she's warned that unless she commits serious time to her new country, she loses it. So, armed with an ugly red backpack, a tattered map and a wad of hard-earned tips stuffed into her bra, she sets off to circumnavigate the continental US of A by way of another legendary ticket to ride, the Greyhound bus.

However romantic it might look in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, Sarah soon discovers the Greyhound is more *Midnight Cowboy* territory, favoured by the desperate poor, the despicably odoured and the dubiously paroled. But as she gradually becomes at one with her fellow travellers on their private *Jerry Springer* show on wheels and is expelled into even more amazing and improbable places, she begins to fall in love with her big, crazy, beautiful and mixed up new land.

Funny, fascinating, fly on the wall and literally edge of your seat, *Ticket to Ride* goes where no tourist has ever gone before.

About the Author: Sarah Darmody published her first work of non-fiction, *Film: It's a Contact Sport* with New Holland publishers in 2002. *Ticket to Ride: Lost and Found in America* described as more *Midnight Cowboy* than *Breakfast at Tiffany's* was published by Bantam for Random House in 2005. Sarah also has a story in the travel anthology *Take Me With You* edited by Sarah Macdonald and published by Random House.

SURVIVING PSYCHIATRY

Rebekah Beddoe



Publisher: Random House Australia
Genre: Non-Fiction Memoir
Pub date: Feb 2007
Format: C Format
Rights: US, UK and translation
Page extent: n/a

In 1999, Rebekah Beddoe was diagnosed with post-natal depression after the birth of her first child and prescribed an SSRI antidepressant. With no past history of mental illness, she began having panic attacks and to self-harm within weeks of taking the drug. Soon, obsessions of suicide lead to several attempts on her own life. Her treating psychiatrists responded by increasing her medications, hospitalising her and giving ECT. She only continued to worsen. Two years and several psychiatric diagnoses later, Rebekah decided to cease her medications, without the knowledge of the doctors. No-one was prepared for the outcome: Rebekah regained her mental health, signifying the start of her quest to discover what part her treatments might have played in her mental deterioration.

Surviving Psychiatry is a memoir of Rebekah's experience from her own point of view and via excerpts of her mother's diary. Threaded through her personal tale is a systematic investigation into the lesser-publicised, harmful effects of antidepressants and other psychiatric treatments along with a critique of the pharmaceutical industry's influence in the area of mental health.

About the Author: Rebekah Beddoe was born in Melbourne, Australia. While suffering what was then diagnosed as post-natal mental illness, Rebekah began studying professional writing with a view to writing about her experiences living with this condition. Ironically, before she'd put pen to paper the real cause of this erroneous diagnosis was becoming apparent. In a sharp twist, what was to be a documented journey of a slide into chronic mental illness, instead became her book *Surviving Psychiatry*. Rebekah, now in her thirties, again lives in Melbourne along with her husband, daughter and very spoilt Labrador Golden Retriever cross. *Surviving Psychiatry* is her first book.

BAGHDAD: BLUE ON BLUE

Gina Wilkinson



Genre: Non-Fiction Memoir
Pub date: 2007
Format: n/a
Rights: US, UK and translation
Page extent: n/a

Gina Wilkinson grew up in a series of small towns in outback Australia before her nomadic callings took her to the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East.

For the past 15 years she's worked as a reporter, correspondent and radio documentary maker for organizations such as the ABC and SBS in Australia, the British Broadcasting Corporation, Agence France Presse, Radio Television Hong Kong, and National Public Radio in the US.

In 2002, Gina put her journalism career on hold to move to Saddam Hussein's Baghdad with her husband, an aid worker with the UN Children's Fund. With foreign reporters forbidden to reside in Iraq, Gina gained a unique opportunity to experience the final year of Saddam's tyrannical rule from the inside. After the fall of Baghdad she was appointed as the ABC's correspondent in Iraq. Gina is currently writing *Baghdad: Blue on Blue*, a narrative non-fiction account of love, loss, ambition, and betrayal in Iraq.

Her other works include a series of short stories for children and young adults. These tales, published by UNESCO, are set in World Heritage areas and incorporate information from documents preserved by the UN for their important cultural and historical values. Since early 2004 Gina has been based in Sri Lanka, and she played a key role in covering the devastation of the Asian tsunami for the BBC, among others.

THE FABULIST: THE STORY OF LOUIS DE ROUGEMONT

Rod Howard



Publisher: Random House Australia
Genre: Narrative Non-Fiction
Pub date: July 2006
Format: C Format
Rights: UK, US and translation available
Page extent: n/a

Summer, and London swelters as the mercury hits unprecedented highs.

Dark spots are observed on the sun and strange phenomena are taking place. In Europe, a sovereign is assassinated by terrorists and a major spy scandal threatens to topple the French government. The world's imperial powers head for a showdown in the Middle East. In an age of technological wonderment, the changing face of communications is shrinking the globe, revolutionising media and bringing to being the cult of celebrity. The biggest stories on earth are delivered direct by wire ...

But this is 1898 and the hottest story in London is a gaunt, goateed fifty-five year old Frenchman with a sensational tale to tell of thirty years marooned with cannibals in an uncharted corner of the Australian desert. Britain's leading authorities swear to his truth, and from the pages of *Wide World Magazine* an astonished, adventure hungry public devours each incredible instalment.

De Rougemont's tales rival those of Verne, Kipling and Haggard. On his remarkable journey to remotest Australia he has ridden giant turtles, tamed crocodiles and discovered hidden valleys of gold. While *The Times* waxes lyrical and the *Daily Chronicle* desperately seeks a scoop, Louis De Rougemont becomes a household name and his wax effigy takes pride of place at Tussaud's. The rights to the Frenchman's extraordinary life story are negotiated around the world. Yet in Australia, a yarn wary audience is less than convinced...

Who is De Rougemont? Modern Crusoe or mythomane? Castaway or crank? As the world divides over De Rougemont's remarkable tale, larger truths are exposed of the temper of the times. *The Fabulist* brings to life one of Australian history's great controversies, as it happened over a century ago.

About the Author: Rod Howard is a Melbourne based writer and freelance journalist. His career has spanned a range of published and commercial work including non-fiction and fiction books, feature writing for Australian newspapers and magazines, reviews, profiles and essays. His work has appeared in publications including *The Australian*, *The Herald Sun*, *The Sun Herald*, *Inside Sport*, *Melbourne Magazine* and *Cosmopolitan*. His current work *The Fabulist* will be published by Random House Australia in September 2006. He is also currently researching a biographical account of Australia's first novelist, English born Tasmanian convict, Henry Savery.