



The blurb, the goat and the phallic garden bed

Blurbing the Blurb

This week I've been agonising over The Blurb for *The Good Woman's Guide*. This is the few sentences that go on the back of the book, or in the Kindle store, which draw you in. It's the third element in the trifecta of cover/title/blurb that you have to nail to make the book fly.

I've managed to write and edit 110,000 words but do you think I can come up with a hundred word summary??? Anyway, between me and my publisher, the Key Blurb (shorter version of the back cover) is below. Let me know if it sounds enticing!

- *How well do you ever really know your husband? And how did Libby – a thoroughly decent straighty one-eighty who's never even had a speeding ticket – end up with Ludo? A warm, funny and outrageously unfair debut novel about deception, financial fraud and goat's cheese, and the possibility of starting your life all over again when everything goes south of the border.*

The cover reveal is just around the corner (SO EXCITING!) and it even has an ISBN, you know the official looking bit at the front which has the author's copyright and info about the national library copy. Launch in January, so watch this space for details.

Talking of book launches, [check out this blog](#) post from Karina May, debut author of the wonderful Rom Com *Duck a l'Orange for Breakfast*, talking about the surreal experience of signing books at her own launch.

Opposites attract

Last month seventy-five percent of you told me you use your opposite hand when pouring or answering the phone, confirming most of us do it! I've saved the stats ready to supply to the ABS should anyone reach out.

I'm a Barbie Girl

I had a friend in the noughties who was the sole female junior director at a major bank and featured in every 'diversity' marketing campaign it had going. The directors were awarded annual bonuses based on their actual sales and account figures. My friend managed to maintain her results while pregnant, parenting a challenging toddler and working three days a week. The firm pro-rated her bonus.

Actually I'm not really a Barbie girl, but the movie was so magnificent I have to call out my three fave parts right here. (Not really spoilers if you haven't seen it).

- Ken (talking to male exec in The Real World): Doesn't The Patriarchy happen any more?
Exec: Yes it does, we're just better at hiding it.
- Will Farrell (Mattell Corporate in a room full of board room execs): Yes, I think women are great! We have women don't we, wasn't there that woman in the nineties who we had, and another one somewhere... look, I love women, I'm the mother of a son, I'm the nephew of a woman aunt...
- I soooo related to the scene of the mother's memories of playing with her daughter being as precious to her as the daughter's own memories.

Happy Friday all, hope to see you around sometime soon.

Liz

P.S. My friend Ingrid and I were talking about stuff that gets our goat. For her, it's the cross stitch on the back of suit jackets that sales assistants DO NOT REMOVE. For me, it's nervous drivers turning right at lights who won't pull into the centre of the intersection, so you sit behind them for weeks if there's no right turn arrow.

I'd love to know your Goatly Gripe. The best ones will be revealed next month. I might even make it a permanent feature.

P.P.S. I've been thinking about giveaways for my book launch. Tote bag, mug, luggage tag, other? Reply to this email and let me know what you like the sound of the most.

P.P.P.S HOW GOOD IS WOMEN'S SPORT RIGHT NOW???

What gets your goat

A safe space to anonymously rant about what gets your goat

Submit your goatly gripe!





Some honest opinions and reviews on current stuff



Reading

The Watchful Wife, by Suzanne Leal. In a world of swirling suspicion, a wife fights to protect her husband. If you're looking for a suspense filled, page-turning, wholly engrossing domestic thriller then look no further.



Watching

Utopia (ABC iView, Netflix). A satire about the bureaucracy of government set in the fictitious 'Nation Building' department. Literally laugh out loud stuff and the funniest thing on television. People who actually work in government can't watch it as it's too close to the bone.



Playing

Crib. A Foster family legacy card game using a board and pegs to score. Hands up if fifteen two, fifteen four, a pair's six and one for his nob is seven makes any sense to you.



Listening

Everyone Has An Ex (podcast). If you think you've heard everything, think again. Compelling (without the bunny boiler element) first person stories of people who've gone through conventional - and bizarre - relationship break-ups. Cleverly framed and narrated, and ultimately told from a happy place.



Going

We're taking my mother-in-law back to Greece for her first trip in 21 years, to visit family and sort out some legal stuff. My husband gets the short straw as all the oldies descend on him expecting his schoolboy Greek to be up to scratch, while I'm off the hook and freed up to finish my final



Laughing

Blooper of the Week goes to the new garden bed at the prestigious Pymble Ladies College in Croydon.

'At a certain angle from up high, the garden with its room for chairs took on a phallic shape which was unintended and unexpected,' said the Headmaster. Architects

novel proof edits along with the odd 'Kalimera!' and 'Yassus!'

(pic: the three of us, Santorini 2001)

hastily made alterations within 72 hours of the drone pictures coming to light.

Life's Rich Pattern



August 2023

For the Record

If you can eat twenty Smarties using chopsticks in under 60 seconds you'll make the Guinness Book of Records.

[Read The Village Observer full article here](#)

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which this was written. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of New South Wales.

Liz Foster Author

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