



Greek tragedies, cover reveal and the story of the Escape Dot

Currently touring with my husband and his mother back to her Greek homeland has been mostly wonderful and a little stressful. Travelling with a vision impaired senior takes me back to having toddlers - no leaving them by themselves or solo toileting, holding hands to cross the road, planning each day's entertainment and activities around them. But fabulous nonetheless, catching up with old friends and family and sharing some incredible experiences together.

Until I managed to flick my phone in the pool with my towel. I jumped straight in but bizarrely couldn't see it - the water was crystal clear and it was the shallow end - until I realised I was still wearing my sunnies. My family went into emergency triage mode (i.e. Googling 'what to do when you drop your iphone in the pool'). Rice and air seemed to be the answers but we had no rice to hand, so air it was. A nervous twenty-four hours passed, but luckily the heat must have helped dry it out and so far so good.

The concentration camp picture leading to Suzanne Leal's author career

Thanks to the wonderful [Suzanne Leal](#) for her story behind the photograph this month. [Read on](#) for her incredible tale linking the Dachau camp liberation, the missing red dot and Suzanne's journey to becoming a writer. Quite brilliant.

Cover Reveal!

I'm super excited to share my book cover here, exclusively with my subscribers (you all know you're mostly family and friends at this point but still!)

As a marketer who's written dozens of creative briefs for graphic designers, I have to say it's exactly what I had in mind. The publisher handles the whole thing and reveals it as a sort of ta-da! so it's a bit nail bitey beforehand, but the look and feel, colours and subtle clues of the goat and the violin are just brilliant. Thanks to my lovely author friend Joanna Nell for her endorsement. I hope you love it as much as I do!!



Winners are Grinners

Everyone in life has wins within their own world, which make perfect sense to you but are meaningless to others. Publishing is no different. I stopped telling people after a while I was writing a book as they invariably commented 'when's it coming out?' Non-writers see the journey to publication more or less as below:

1. Write a book.
2. Send it to a publisher.
3. Get offered a multi-book deal.
4. Have a glitzy book launch stacked with media and famous people.
5. Your book comes out in all formats and languages worldwide.

I've been lucky to get signed by a traditional publisher after years of pitching and rejections (yes luck still plays a part - my manuscript hit the right desk at the right time). It doesn't matter how completely brilliant it might be, if the

publisher wants a light hearted rom-com and you've written cyberpunk - sci-fi set in a high-tech futuristic and dystopian future, yes it's really a genre - you won't get too far.

When you are signed up it's specifically by region and format. So my book is coming out in Australia and New Zealand, as a paperback and ebook. It's up to the publisher to pitch it to audio book publishers - you'll never find an audio book not already out in print.

So I was STOKED to find out this week I've been offered a separate audio book deal, meaning it will come out at the same time as the novel - not all books make it to audio. And I forgive my family for their bemused reactions to my elation as they assumed, of course, it would be in audio anyway. It's most excellent fun thinking of the narration style I'm after (you know, from Helen Mirren to Justine Clarke and everything in between).

If you've ever had a huge win in your world that's meaningless to others, I'd love to hear about it. Let me know by replying to this email or, if you're game, trying the malfunctioning survey button (more on that later).



Goatly Gripe Wrap

Thanks for all your Goatly Gripes. From slow walkers, to non-toilet lid closers (yuch!), and hairdressers paying too much attention to the back of your head, they were all magnificent and perfectly rational. There were several contenders involving traffic - cars zooming through on yellow lights leaving you stranded on the red trying to turn right, people spending eons doing their hair and make-up in the car-park while you're clearly waiting for the spot. In fact Traffic Gripes could be its whole own subset.

My new GG is the malfunctioning survey link button!! Grrr! People with success tell me they had to first click the 'Submit' button, then add their gripe. Seems to work differently for phones and desktops. You can always just reply to this email if your survey's wonky.

Until next month,

Liz

Big Wins meaningless to others

Personal wins that need explaining to your nearest and dearest

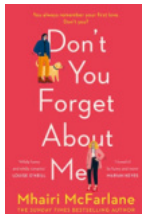
What's your win? (Click here first if you can't enter text above...)



Happenings



Some honest opinions and reviews on current stuff



Reading

Don't You Forget About Me, Mhairi McFarlane. Very very funny and clever rom-com by the *Sunday Times* bestselling British author (pronounced Vah-ree) drawing out the long game between two schoolyard sweethearts. Compelling reading despite kind of knowing what will happen - the cleverest style of writing.



Watching

Billy Elliot (movie). A more perfect feelgood story does not exist, set against the gritty backdrop of the 1980s British miners' strike. Pure genius from stars Jamie Bell and Julie Walters as Billy secretly trains for the Royal Ballet School. Never gets old. (On Greek travels, no internet or TV reception, unearthed from a dusty cupboard - gold!)



Playing

Boggle. There's been a heap of competitive Boggle action during our trip, vying for the most words no-one else had in three minute rounds. My sister Teens is invincible, invariably pulling out a surprise seven letter word no-one else has while you're scratching around with high literary vocabulary like 'ant' and 'tan'.



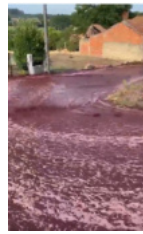
Listening

This is Konstantinos. The Greek superstar who recently toured Australia (my mother-in-law went to his concert) is taking the Greek speaking world by storm with his suave style and catchy songs. A three hour road trip with MIL makes me the lowest common denominator. I almost can sing along now, though I don't know what any of the words mean.



Buying

Leather bags. The dilemma as always if you're lucky enough to be overseas is not which one to get but how many you can justify. Ditto shoes. Impossible not to purchase multiple items and I am the opposite of Carrie Bradshaw.



Loving

2.2 million litres of surplus red wine burst from two tanks in São Lourenço do Bairro, Portugal, creating a river of vino coursing down a hilly street, sluicing over its curbs. Any empty carafes to hand?

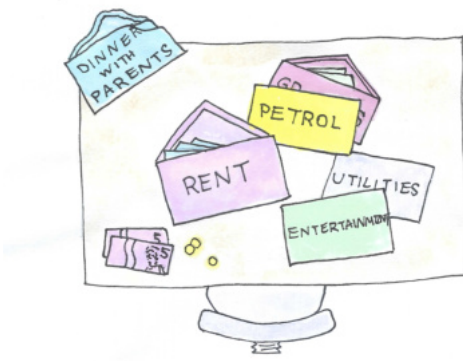
Life's Rich Pattern



September 2023

Cash is King

If you're keen for Millennials to teach you a novel way of budgeting, read on.



[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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