Lola Bensky Lily Brett

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lola bensky is a nineteen year old rock journalist who irons her hair straight and asks a lot of questions a high school dropout she s not sure how she got the job but she s been sent by her australian newspaper right to the heart of the london music scene at the most exciting time in music history 1967 lola spends her days planning diets and interviewing rock stars in london mick jagger makes her a cup of tea jimi hendrix possibly propositions her and cher borrows her false eyelashes at the monterey international pop festival lola props up brian jones and talks to janis joplin about sex in los angeles she discusses being overweight with mama cass and tries to pluck up the courage to ask cher to return those false eyelashes lola has an irrepressible curiosity but she begins to wonder whether the questions she asks these extraordinary young musicians are really a substitute for questions about her parents calamitous past that can t be asked or answered as lola moves on through marriage motherhood psychoanalysis and a close relationship with an unexpected pair of detectives she discovers the question of what it means to be human is the hardest one for anyone including herself to answer

new york is a walker's city you can walk for hours the streets slip by there is so much to look at so much to take in i walk a lot especially when i am not writing lily brett's love affair with new york began as an outsider in her late teens when she was posted on assignment there as a young australian rock journalist in her early forties she returned together with her soul mate and three children to start a new life and for the best part of three decades she has called new york home this witty candid and moving collection of short pieces celebrates the city that s now part of her heartbeat a compulsive walker brett takes us to her favourite places and introduces us to the characters of the city that has nurtured perplexed and inspired her she brings to life the delights of chinatown the majesty of grand central station the lure of spandex and sequins in the garment district and the peculiarity of canine couture and she muses on the miracle of love in the lodz ghetto the possibility of loneliness amidst skyscrapers and the joy and redemption in a child's curiosity full of wisdom humour and grace only in new yorkis a human portrait of a city much loved and of a woman in step with herself pithy entertaining and personal the natural light quality of brett's writing is a pleasure akin to a conversation with a friend brett leavens her observations with dry humour weekend australian new york is a city of character and characters and anyone thinking of visiting should use this as a guide to its flavour and also as an insight into where to eat herald sun charm ing her snippets are short and sharp as they portray the essence of new york west australian a charming and unique narrative on the city brett achieves a perfect combination of wit and naivety creating a memoir that acknowledges the existence of good and bad experiences awkward quirks and love affairs with buildings brett's words have the ability to transport you to the city from the comfort of your own back yard you may even find it unnecessary to fly to new yor

i didn t want to derail myself by thinking about my vulva and whether it was hospitable enough most of us would like to live to an old age but few of us actually want to be old in this disarming intimate and self deprecating collection of vignettes about aging lily brett gives us snapshots of her life in new york after avoiding a large dog that turns out to be a fire hydrant and mistaking a tall grey haired woman for her husband lily has to concede that her ophthalmologist is right she does need cataract surgery she s transfixed by a speed dating dinner at a local cafe and is told they also have speed dating dinners for seniors in the crowded apple store in soho two young apple assistants decide it will take both of them to help her in old seems to be other people lily brett s unique take on getting older is simultaneously hilarious serious and utterly irresistible

henry lawson barbara baynton henry handel richardson katharine susannah prichard christina stead gavin casey vance palmer alan marshall marjorie barnard judah waten john morrison peter cowan hal porter patrick white thelma forshaw dal stivens peter carey murray bail frank moorhouse t a g hungerford elizabeth jolley michael wilding olga masters beverley farmer fay zwicky barry hill gerald murnane archie weller thea astley helen garner lily brett susan hampton gail jones in this bestselling collection the australian short story is represented from its bulletin beginnings to its vigorous revival in the late twentieth century

rediscover the dark magic of barbara hanrahan s visionary gothic novel nothing is as it seems in this twisted fairytale of moral ambiguity and corrupted innocence just as the tropical beauty of the frangipani gardens conceals its inherent menace watercolor painter doll lives a prim respectable existence belying her wildest fantasies but when her young niece and nephew come to stay doll s true self threatens to be exposed barbara hanrahan was a prolific australian author publishing fifteen books in under two decades the frangipani gardens first released in 1980 was shortlisted for the age book of the year her second shortlisting for the award in as many years

winner of the commonwealth writers prize ruth rothwax a successful woman with her own business rothwax correspondence can find order and meaning in writing words for other people condolence letters thank you letters even you were great in bed letters but as the daughter of edek rothwax an auschwitz survivor with a somewhat idiosyncratic approach to the english language ruth can find no words to understand the loss her family experienced during world war ii ruth is obsessed with the idea of returning to poland with her father but she doesn t quite understand why she feels this so intensely to make sense of her family s past yes to visit the places where her beloved mother and father lived and almost died certainly but she knows there s more to this trip by facing poland and the past she can finally confront her own future one of a rare breed a polished stylist with brains wit and a message sun herald too many men is lily brett s masterpiece the australian this is writing of a high order of accomplishment sydney morning herald a very funny writer with a feel for the vagaries of conversation and behaviour the age

lily brett is an award winning novelist and poet as well as a brilliant short story writer this collection brings together the two sequences of stories that were published as things could be worse and what god wants following the lives of a company of melbourne friends who survived the holocaust and the complex lives of the children they raised always under the shadow of their terrible history the closeknit jewish community portrayed in these stories tackles life with exuberance passion and extraordinary humour these wryly comic yet deeply moving stories explore layers of guilt and fear and above all the need for belonging to the family to the community and to the faith publishers weekly usa brett writes with humour and compassion whilst maintaining a typically jewish honesty and stridency slav newsbulletin

no marketing blurb

it hasn t been easy for ruth rothwax the proprietor of a successful letter writing business to branch out into a new greeting card line her father edek is driving her crazy at the office other women who she thought would be supportive are being catty and competitive behavior ruth swears that she will never imitate but

then zofia arrives to turn ruth s aspirations of sisterly solidarity and her life upside down fresh off the plane from poland a buxom sixty something femme fatale with a talent for making meatballs zofia wants to open a restaurant and edek zofia s most passionate admirer wants his daughter to finance the enterprise but ruth knows that gleam in zofia s eye only too well and she knows it means big trouble for all of them

an extraordinary personal journey through cancer and treatment extraordinary its bravery irony humour and intelligence everything shines through the transparent prose a remarkable literary voice or melding of three voices the autobiographical the poetic and the allegorical dr oliver sacks the life of an individual is as complex as a maze of reflecting mirrors the life of a family is even more so doris brett is an award winning writer and poet i forget who said that the prospect of impending death concentrates the mind wonderfully clarifying is the word i keep thinking of but this is not the clarifying of a mist gently evaporating to reveal answers this is the clarifying of paint stripper a solvent that stings and burns with its harshness but reveals what was truly there all the time when doris brett was diagnosed with cancer several years ago she began writing a private journal a traveller s diary through a life threatening illness the journal however rapidly grew into something much more than that cancer became the catalyst for an inner journey a journey through self evocatively told via three voices the diarist the poet and the voice of fairytale and myth this memoir explores the intricate dynamics of family truth and memory poignant and compelling eating the underworld is a sharply observed often unexpectedly funny book about change transformation and the constant renewal of self throughout our lives as with any descent into a feared and terrifying country whether it is the country of illness or the country of a grieving heart we have entered the underworld and we have eaten of its fruit the knowledge of ourselves the knowledge of others we cannot remain unchanged

in ihrem unverwechselbaren stil erzählt lily brett hier von josl und renia bensky deren kinder und freunden in der jüdischen gemeinde von melbourne sie erzählt von zwistigkeiten und versöhnung vom erinnern und vergessen ein buch voller humor tiefer weisheit und dem unerschütterlichen glauben an das leben

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