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The Drummond Agency

Rights Catalogue

(abbreviated version)

Visiting International Publishers

SWF

21-22 May 2009

Established ten years ago by Sheila Drummond, this small personalised agency successfully represents authors in Australia and overseas. The agency has a well developed network of sub agents in many countries and personal contacts with individual publishers, gained from attendance at international book fairs such as Frankfurt, London, BEA and Bologna, plus visits to New York and London on a regular basis. Rights have been sold into many territories including: US, UK and Europe, Japan, India, Germany, The Netherlands, Thailand, Taiwan and China.

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FICTION

LIZ BYRSKI

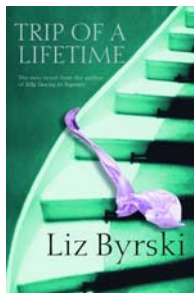


www.lizbyrski.com.au

Liz Byrski is a West Australian writer, journalist and broadcaster. She is the author of a number of books on social issues and her work has appeared in national and international publications. Liz has won several awards for radio and print journalism, and until recently was a broadcaster with ABC Radio in Perth. She teaches writing and journalism at Curtin University, and is also the author of the best selling *Gang of Four*, *Food, Sex and Money*, *Belly Dancing for Beginners* and her latest *Trip of a Lifetime* published in March 2008 by Pan Australia.

Trip of a Lifetime

Liz Byrski



On a winter's night in a quiet Newcastle street a shot rings out and NSW MP, Heather Delaney, is soon on her way to hospital with a bullet in her shoulder. In the days and weeks that follow, while politicians fulminate and talkback lines run hot with speculation about who's to blame, Heather struggles to return to work, haunted by questions about the shooting. Was it personal or political? Was she shot for her passionately held beliefs, or for all the times she compromised? Who could hate her enough to want to kill her and will they try again? But Heather's is not the only life turned upside down, her family and friends also reel with shock as illusions of security are shattered. Her brother Adam and his second wife Jill are juggling the conflicting demands of work and pre-teen children. Adam, a cellist, hides behind the security blanket of his music while Jill struggles to keep the family afloat. There's Shaun, Heather's electorate officer, loyal, ambitious and caught in a relationship that is running out of control; Diane, still smarting from a bitter mid-life divorce, longing for love and trying to keep her fear of ageing at bay; and Barbara, who suddenly finds her peaceful rural retirement disturbed by the distress of the people she loves. And then, to complicate matters, along comes Ellis, formerly an eminent lawyer, now reinventing himself as a life coach, and determined to recapture the romance of the past and make it his future. In the emotional aftermath of the shooting old wounds are reopened, secrets revealed and relationships teeter on the brink.

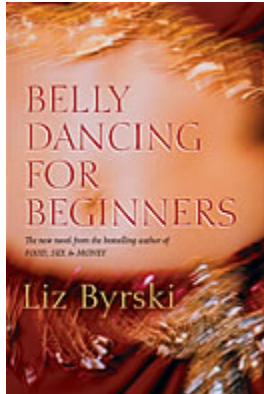
Commercial women's fiction

A Women's Weekly Great Read

Publisher: Pan **Publication date:** 2008 **Format:** B p/b
Extent: 344 **ISBN:** 978-0-330-42468-4
Rights: World *The Drummond Agency*
Rights sold: ANZ Pan Macmillan

Belly Dancing for Beginners

Liz Byrski



Gayle and Sonya are complete opposites; one reserved and cautious, the other confident and outspoken. But their lives will be turned upside down when they impulsively join a belly dancing class.

Marissa, their teacher, is sixty, sexy and very much her own person, and as Gayle and Sonya learn about the origins and meaning of the dance, much more than their muscle tone begins to change.

And then there are the men in their lives: Oliver, confused over why his feminist upbringing hasn't led him to success with women; Brian, sailing blindly towards the rocks, and Frank who is battling his own demons.

Belly Dancing for Beginners is a warm-hearted, moving and often outright funny story of what can happen when women, and the men in their lives, are brave enough to reveal who they really are.

'Byrski's forte is getting inside women's heads and hearts.'
Australian Women's Weekly

Publisher: Pan Publication date: 2006 Format: B p/b
Extent: 308pp ISBN: 978 0 330 42345 8
Rights: World The Drummond Agency
Rights sold: ANZ Pan Macmillan

Commercial women's fiction

Food, Sex & Money

Liz Byrski



It's almost forty years since the three ex-convent girls left school and went their separate ways, but finally they meet again.

Bonnie, rocked by the death of her husband, is back in Australia after decades in Europe, and is discovering that while financial security eliminates worry, it doesn't guarantee a fulfilling life. Fran, long divorced, is a struggling freelance food writer, battling with her diet, her bank balance, and her relationship with her adult children. And Sylvia, marooned in a long and passionless marriage to an ambitious Anglican minister, is facing a crisis that will crack her world wide open.

Together again, sharing their past lives, secrets, aspirations and deepest fears, Bonnie, Fran and Sylvia embark on a creative venture that will challenge everything they thought they knew about themselves - and give them more second chances than they ever could have imagined.

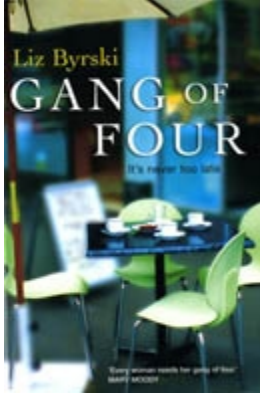
'A relevant, enjoyable read for all women, and for men who seek to understand them.'
Good Reading

Publisher: Pan Publication date: 2006 Format: B p/b
Extent: 432pp ISBN: 0330 422650
Rights: World The Drummond Agency
Rights sold: ANZ Pan Macmillan; French Presses de la Cite and J'ai lu

Commercial women's fiction

Gang of Four

Liz Byrski



Commercial women's fiction

She had a husband, children and grandchildren who loved her, a beautiful home, enough money. What sort of person was she to feel so overwhelmed with gloom and resentment on Christmas morning?

They have been close friends for almost two decades, supporting each other through personal and professional crises – parents dying, children leaving home, house moves, job changes, political activism, diets and really bad haircuts.

Now the 'gang of four', Isabel, Sally, Robin and Grace, are all fifty-something, successful ...and restless.

It is Isabel who makes the first move, taking a year away from her family to follow in her mother's footsteps across Europe. Soon Sally is on her way to San Francisco, to come face to face with a guilty secret. Robin, in the wake of a clandestine relationship, heads for isolation in the country. And Grace? Well, Grace would never go away for an entire year, but, lonely in the others' absence, she thinks she might take a short holiday in England. Once there, she bumps into someone she hardly knows – herself.

Gang of Four is a story of four very different journeys and a celebration of women in the prime of life.

'Finally, a coming of age novel for the rest of us.' Susan Maushart, author of *Wifework*.

Publisher: Pan **Publication date:** 2005 **Format:** B p/b
Extent: 408pp **ISBN:** 0330 421573
Rights available: World *The Drummond Agency*
Rights sold: ANZ Pan; UK Transita; French Presses de la Cite & J'ai lu
German Droemer

A.D.Scott



A most enchanting storyteller with a wonderful highland lilt.

Tales from the Highland Gazette (series)

Faultlines

Commercial fiction/mystery

A D Scott, was born and brought up in the Scottish Highlands. Educated at Inverness Royal Academy, attended the Royal Scottish Academy of Speech and Drama followed by a period working in theatre in Edinburgh, London and Amsterdam. After emigrating to Australia in the mid 80s she worked in newspapers and magazines on advertising, marketing and business development. In the mid 90s her family moved to Vietnam. Her husband was the editor of the country's leading English language newspaper. Deborah initially worked on marketing the travel and lifestyle magazine, but soon became more interested in writing for it. Magazines accepted her stories and soon she was writing feature articles, restaurant reviews, travel stories, fashion and shopping features. A visit to Edinburgh, a chance suggestion from Maggie McKay of the Scottish School of Studies and encouragement from Robert Alan Jamieson the Shetland poet and creative writing lecturer, persuaded her that her true destiny was to write fiction. Deborah's debut novel *Faultlines* is the first in the series *Tales from the Highland Gazette*. Deborah presently lives north of Sydney, Australia.

Synopsis: A boy is found dead in the canal lock. The last people to see him alive were his school-friends. Who will believe the fanciful tales of two little girls against the word of a priest; children should be seen and not heard in 1950s Scotland. Joanne Ross, part-time typist at the *Highland Gazette*, dismisses her daughters' stories but gradually the unthinkable can no longer be ignored – and who or what is the mysterious 'hoodie crow'?

Central to the action is the team from the *Highland Gazette*: Joanne Ross, young mother of two caught in a destructive marriage, her job her lifeline; McAllister the editor, a seasoned journalist from south of the Great Glen determined to update a newspaper unchanged since the 19th century; Rob McLean the ambitious junior reporter, with an eye for the girls, his Triumph motorbike and an obsession with the music that's being heard for the first time in Britain – rock n' roll; Don McLeod, sub-editor, sceptic, and keeper of the town's secrets.

Alongside these characters are the people of the town and neighbouring glens (or faultlines); the tinkers, that Highland underclass with scant respect for the law but with its own rigid code of honour; the refugee Polish Count; the Italian family whose café boasts the first known cappuccino machine in the north of Scotland; and the corrupt Town Clerk subverting the planning laws to line his own pocket. And above all is the complicity of a 1950s society in keeping the dark elements hidden – respectability is all.

All these stories, the essence of a local newspaper, add to the novel's richness – but what the local press knows and how much it can print is the perennial dilemma. The mystery of the boy's death runs throughout the novel.

The denouement – the chase in a deep snowbound winter – is thrilling yet the resolution is too confronting and as ever, denial is the best option. But in the end, natural justice is the only solution.

The episodic stories running alongside the main theme paint a portrait of the time and the place and give a true picture of the workings of a small newspaper.

In the twilight of the Celtic culture, in a society ruled by whisky and the Kirk, decimated by WW11, the seeds of change are germinating. In the 1950s world of the Great Glen, the baby boomers are at school and the faultline in society is about to crack.

Along with a cast of memorable characters and a little help from Bill Haley and the Comets, the post-war era comes to life. And the Highland Gazette is there reporting and changing with the times.

'some people are born sportsmen, you are a born novelist.'
Barry Oakley, former literary editor *The Australian*

Status: Edited MS 75,000 words approx available June 2009
World *The Drummond Agency*

Rights sold: N America (Atria) Spring 2010; Germany Goldman

Landlines

LandLines McAllister the editor is about to launch the 'new look' *Highland Gazette* and is searching for a dramatic story for the launch. A spectacular fire on a local fishing boat looks perfect for the revamped front page. Reporters Rob McLean and Joanne Ross join the fray with the skipper and the crew of the boat. They soon decide that something fishy is going on.

Bloodlines

Status: Synopsis and part MS approx 75 000 words
Rights: World *The Drummond Agency*

Rights sold: N America (Atria) Pub TBC

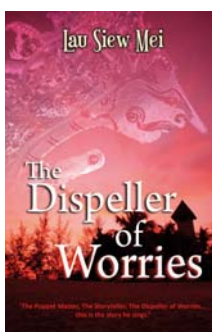
Bloodlines The success of the new-look *Highland Gazette* has been helped by the appointment of Mrs Smart as office manager. Advertising is huge. But when she is found murdered and Don McLeod, the deputy editor, is arrested, it makes running the paper a nightmare.

Commercial fiction/mystery

Status: Synopsis and prologue
Rights: World *The Drummond Agency*

Dispeller of Worries

Lau Siew Mei



New
Literary fiction

Lau Siew Mei, was born in Singapore in 1968, migrated to Australia in 1994. Her stories have been broadcast on the BBC and published in major literary journals in Australia, the US and the UK. She received an Asialink residency for Kuala Lumpur and has been an invited guest to all writers' festivals in Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore. She lives in Brisbane.

This evocative novel uses interweaving narratives moving in time between Southeast Asia, Europe and Australia, told by Chui Hong and Rysiek. Their lives begin at opposite ends of the world. Myths, dreams, theatre and the drama of daily life are all used to great effect. Characters such as Chui Hong's sister, her Aunt Lily, Naga and the amahs are conjured up in a few sentences. The prose is vivid and lively.

The puppet master of the shadow play, the *dalang*, the dispeller of worries, like the author is the manipulator of its style and structure: 'Leather puppets. Jerking limbs. Shadows upon a cloth screen. Behind the screen sits the storyteller. The *dalang* weaves his story holding in his hands the leather puppets, as a weaver, his threads criss-crossing colours and images till slowly from a distance the pattern emerges in the *wayang kulit*'.

Chui Hong's story dominates, and it is her relationship with her sister, in life and death, and the mystery of how and why she died, that is the strongest theme of the book.

This is an original story of colliding worlds, perceptions, myths and histories.

Publisher Marshall Cavendish (Malaysia) **Date:** March 09 **Format:** p/b
Extent: 77 450 words, 240pp **ISBN:** 978 967 3035 23 6
Rights: World *The Drummond Agency*
Rights sold: Asia Pacific

Playing Madame Mao

Lau Siew Mei



Literary Fiction

A phantasmagoric representation of life in a world of mirrors, where a women's memoir of her existence is projected through flashes of myth and history. In this cloudy version of contemporary Singapore, the obsessively personal and the obliquely political have become indistinguishable. Lau Siew Mei creates an atmosphere in which, passion, vanity and pathos combine with disturbing intensity in a highly original imaginative conception.

Shortlisted Queensland Premier's Literary Award

"It might be hyperbolic to compare Lau Siew Mei with the Nobel Laureate Garcia Marquez, but Lau deserves every accolade."
Singapore Business Times

"A fascinating kaleidoscope... a disturbing exploration of myth and reality... In this brilliant fictional hall of mirrors, Lau Siew Mei gives us the many faces of the Chinese diaspora."
The Bulletin/Newsweek

"...a fascinating mirror-maze of politics and passion..."
Australian Book Review

Publisher: Brandl & Schlesinger **Publication date:** 2000 **Format:** p/b
Extent: 316pp **ISBN:** 1 876040 18 1
Rights: World *The Drummond Agency*
Rights sold: UK Summersdale; Greek Empiria

*Her Majesty The
King*
(Trilogy)

Patricia O'Neill



Book 1 *Her Majesty the
King*

Book 2 *The Horus Throne*

Book 3 *The Eye of Re*

Egypt 1484 BC The first empire in history was ruled by a woman—Egypt's female Pharaoh, Hatshepsut. In the fifteenth century BC, when all rulers were men, young Hatshepsut battled prejudice and treachery to transform a faltering kingdom into the world's first superpower. She revolutionised Egypt's religion and art, led her armies into battle herself and founded an age of unprecedented splendour. She defied convention by appointing a brilliant commoner as her chief advisor; their affair is one of history's great untold love stories. Hatshepsut's success so intimidated her successor that he tried to erase her from history. For two centuries, historians have been baffled by Hatshepsut's rise to power and have vilified her as a scheming usurper.

They're wrong about her.

Her Majesty The King tells the true story of Egypt's female Pharaoh. It is a historical novel that follows Hatshepsut's evolution from a fourteen-year-old princess to a battle-hardened warrior Pharaoh. The book is based on real characters and events, and recreates the exotic world of New Kingdom Egypt in vivid detail. Five years of painstaking research using original ancient sources allowed the author to unravel the riddle of Hatshepsut's ascent and to resurrect this remarkable woman's personality. O'Neill's bold reappraisal of Hatshepsut's place in history will generate controversy—but *Her Majesty The King* is the only story that has ever solved the Hatshepsut enigma. The book will appeal to the large international audience fascinated by ancient mysteries and the private lives of history's legendary monarchs.

The author: Patricia O'Neill is a science writer whose articles on health, science, gardening and art have appeared in magazines like *Good Medicine*, *The Australian Gardener*, and *Spectrum*. She also writes a science column for *Aurealis Australian Science Fiction and Fantasy*, Australia's premier science fiction magazine. Her short stories and science fiction have won four prizes in national fiction competitions, and have been published in magazines and an anthology. O'Neill's historical novel, *Her Majesty the King*, won first prize in the Australia-wide competition, the 2008 NSW Writers' Centre/New Holland Genre Fiction Award. She is an executive of the Ancient Egypt Society of Western Australia, where she lectures on Egyptian history and teaches hieroglyphics. Before turning to writing full-time she enjoyed a twenty-five year academic career at universities in the U.S., South Africa and Australia and has a Ph.D. in biology from UCLA. She was born in Chicago and is a dual U.S./Australian citizen.

O'Neill was attracted to the historical genre by the opportunity to combine creative writing, her passion for ancient Egypt and her academic research skills to unravel intriguing historical enigmas. The Hatshepsut trilogy (*Her Majesty the King*, *The Horus Throne* and *The Eye of Re*) is based on the true story of Egypt's famous female Pharaoh, Hatshepsut. The trilogy presents a radical reinterpretation of historical evidence which solves the mystery of how a woman won the throne of Egypt and founded an empire. Her next novel will tackle the misunderstood successors of Tutankhamen.

Publisher: New Holland 2010 Format: C p/b
Word count: 104,000 ISBN: TBC
Rights: World *The Drummond Agency*
Rights sold: ANZ New Holland (*HMTK Trilogy*)

Non-fiction

The Imp and the Vagabond

*Indian Nationalist Relations
with China 1880-1950*

Joan Grant

Correspondence

An interesting exchange of letters between Jawaharlal Nehru and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek during WW 11.

The existence of the letters has not previously been documented and they form the core of this story of relations between India and China at a crucial time in their histories.

From the outbreak of the European war in 1939, when Nehru was in China for the first time, to the victory of the Chinese Communists in 1949, when he had become Prime Minister, the Indian leader-to-be and the wife of the Chinese leader conducted an intense relationship primarily through letters, which were both political and personal – and highly indiscreet. Madame Chiang ('May' or the 'the imp behind the marble statue' of her public appearances, as she described herself to Nehru) saw India as the last bulwark against the Japanese, and Nehru's influence as vital in keeping the Congress Party on the side of the 'free world', and while he was in jail (for agitating that Britain 'quit India') she sent him hams from Yunnan and marmalade, 'a Szechuan product which symbolises to me what life holds – the ring, the juice, the seeds-the sweetness, bitterness and spice which comprise life...)

She believed he would be the leader of a free India, and her defence of him to the British and to Roosevelt caused one of the major wartime fallings out between Churchill and Roosevelt; the Foreign Office and the Viceroy complained that Mme Chiang's 'escapades across India' and 'quite intolerable behaviour' (because of Nehru's jailing she refused to have anything with British officialdom). To Nehru, whom Mme Chiang addressed as 'the Vagabond' because of his love of wandering in the mountains of his native Kashmir, her support came 'like a ray of sunshine enlightening the gloom of a dark and dismal world...'

Through clandestine visits, smuggled letters containing secret cables ('it might be wise if you destroy my letters...for they are only meant for you...') unexpected gifts and pressure on world leaders, the imp and the vagabond kept up each others' spirits until the ironic post-war denouement, when, India independent, and Nationalist China about to collapse, Mme Chiang pleaded for Nehru's support via Washington (where his sister Madam Pandit, 'Nan', was now the Indian Ambassador). Nehru's 'conscience was stricken' but as he replied to his sister, 'With all my friendship for the Chiangs, I cannot as Prime Minister or Foreign Minister, shut my eyes to the facts and to my own convictions' that it was in India's interest to be a friend of whomever was governing China.

The two appear never to have corresponded again.

The author: Dr Joan Grant is well qualified for this project. Apart from academic qualifications, at the time she did her research she was a resident of New Delhi as the wife of the Australian High Commissioner to India. She is the author of academic texts and award-winning children's books.

Rights: World *The Drummond Agency*