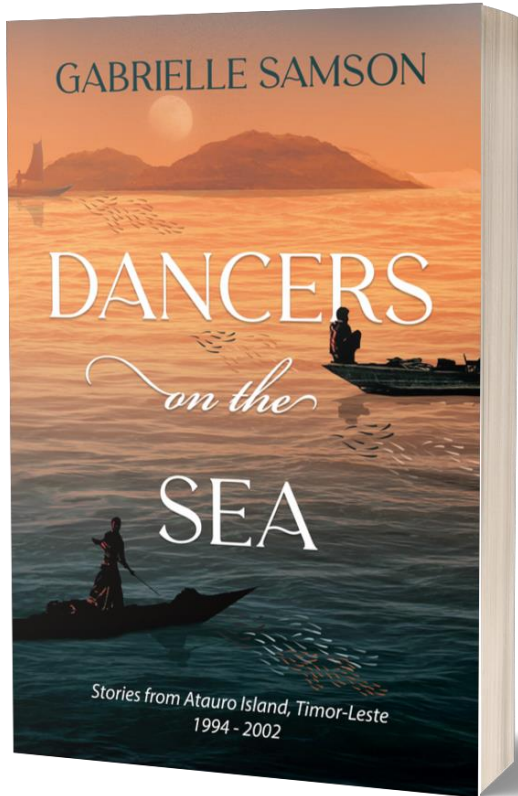


Dancers on the Sea

Written by Gabrielle Samson



ISBN	9781923101067
Publication Date	25 OCT 2023
Genre	Memoir
Format	Paperback
Audience	General
Author Location	Brisbane, QLD

Price available on our website

THIS STORY TELLS OF A WOMAN'S LIFE AND WORK ON ATAURO ISLAND, LEARNING THE ISLAND'S HISTORY AND CULTURE, AND SHARES STORIES OF OTHERS WITH WHOM SHE LIVED IN A TIME OF GREAT CHANGE...

During a period when East Timor was occupied by a harsh Indonesian military regime and a fierce resistance movement challenged it, Gabrielle – an Australian woman working at an Indonesian university – was asked by a Timorese village leader to help establish a kindergarten for the community. Supported by the university, Gabrielle agreed to spend six months on the remote and poor island, to live amongst them as the only Westerner in its harsh and often cruel conditions.

It doesn't take long for Gabrielle to fall in love with the island, its people and an Indonesian co-worker, resulting in the following twelve years of her life being spent living on the island amongst an amazing community of people. *Dancers on the Sea* is Gabrielle's experience through six of those years as the little country struggled for, and achieved, its independence.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Gabrielle, an Australian, spent twelve years on East Timor's remote Atauro Island living and working with the island community. *Dancers on the Sea* is about the six years prior to Timor-Leste's independence in 2002. Gabrielle, a writer of fiction and non-fiction, lives on a nature refuge in southern Queensland and still regularly visits the island and people she loves. She writes – mainly short stories – to express and share her wonder and appreciation of people and their cultures. Gabrielle has won prizes for her stories, speaks four languages, has degrees in Anthropology and Education and has worked in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

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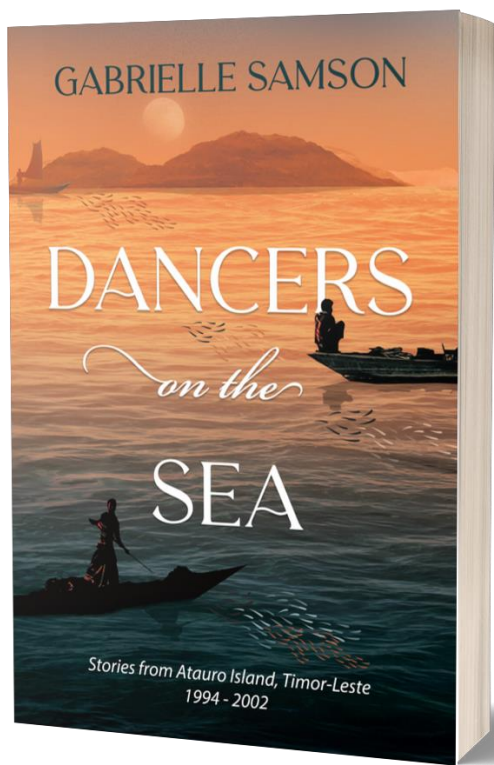
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

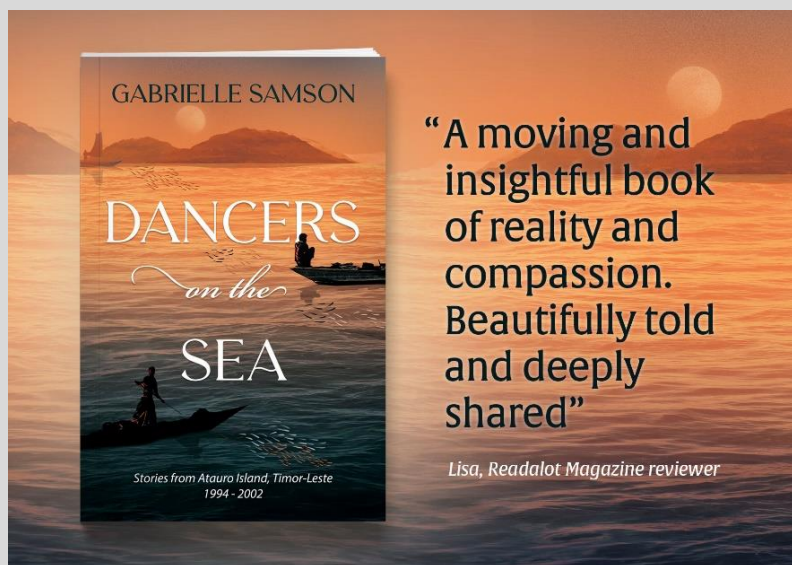
WHAT HAS YOUR WRITING JOURNEY BEEN LIKE?

I first realised I wanted to write when I learnt how to, at the early age of six or seven! I hate to think of not writing. It is one of my greatest joys. Without it I would probably read, draw and paint, garden, listen to and play music or spend more time with friends.

As much as I love writing, however, one of the most difficult parts of my artistic process is believing in myself as a writer and giving my writing the discipline and time it needs and deserves. My writers groups help with this, as we discuss and critique each other's writing in a positive way.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF *DANCERS ON THE SEA*?

My very special lived experience and love of the people I shared them with. My memoir is about six years of interesting experiences. My time on Atauro Island was so valued and important to me, I wanted to capture that as well as the unique island and culture.



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