

Crucial choices

Maria Prestinenzi



A STORY OF DEVASTATING EMOTIONAL POWER THAT WILL GRIP YOU FROM BEGINNING TO END.

From a humble yet happy childhood in Italy, to moving across the water to Australia in the 1960's, then thrown into unexpected culture shock and racism, this young girl grows through constant upheavals as a woman determined.

She falls in love and marries her true sweetheart but as she faces challenge after challenge, her life becomes a roller coaster of periods of personal success and total despair, upon which the spectre of mental illness then arises.

Again and again, this woman needs to make a heartbreaking choice between her personal happiness and her duty and love for her family.

Through sheer strength and determination in holding on to her most cherished values, she eventually finds a measure of self-acceptance, peace and happiness.

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Audience	General
Location	Melbourne, VIC

Price available on our site.



AUTHOR BIO

Maria Prestinenzi was born in a small town in Italy.

She migrated to Australia as a young teenager with her family and settled in Melbourne where she still lives surrounded by her immediate and extended family.

She's passionate about the environment. She loves to go on long walks, commune with nature and do her daily Zumba class.

She loves learning about different cultures and traditions and discovering new places.

She has lived a colourful life, travelled extensively and met some amazing people.

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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE 'CRUCIAL CHOICES'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

I felt it was a story worth telling. I wanted to share the importance to never give up. I wanted to speak of mental illness, and lift the stigma, especially since about 20% of people experienced a mental disorder in Australia in the last 12 months.

I wanted to show that even with a mental illness like Bi-Polar, and the difficulties that brings, a person can still live a full and worthwhile life and achieve a measure of happiness and love.

I also wanted to share the experiences of a migrant growing up in the 60's and the changes in Australian society such as educational expectations in regard to getting employment, especially in child-care.

FOR WHOM DID YOU WRITE IT AND WHY?

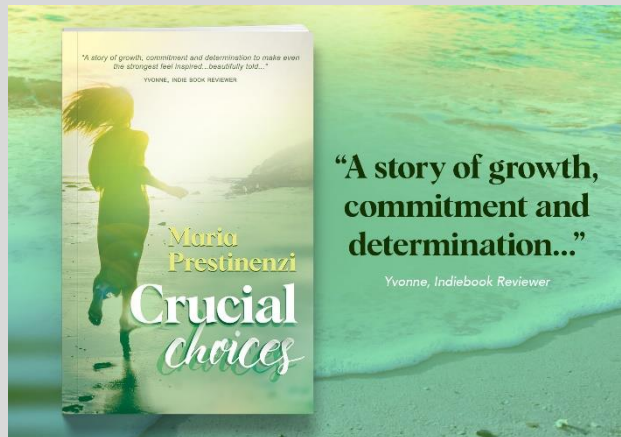
I wrote it for the women out there that have experienced or are experiencing heartache and pain, to show that there is light at the end of the tunnel, to never surrender to hopelessness and despair. To never stop loving.

WHAT WAS AN EARLY EXPERIENCE WHERE YOU LEARNED THAT LANGUAGE HAD POWER?

I was only 4 – 5 years old, but I learned little poems very quickly, and whenever I went to visit people with my family, they asked me to recite one. When I was praised, I loved the attention, and was always keen in learning a new one.

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