



Zaphon

August 2009

**What you dream alone remains a dream,
what you dream with others can become a
reality.**

Edward Schillebeeckx

What to do about Walls

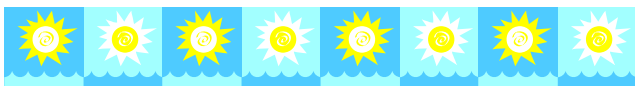
Writer's block is just one of the obstacles that authors face in trying to get those elusive words into the right form on paper or screen. Life throws up all sorts of obstacles from petty annoyances to frustrating must-dos that all take valuable time away from writing. But an entirely different category of difficulty is 'the wall.'

The wall is different for every person. For some it's to do with some aspect of their writing, for others it's to do with just life in general. It's that massive unchangeable thing that we can't climb over, can't go around, can't blast through, can't dig under, can't budge in any way, shape or form.

One of these monstrous walls has been in my life for a very long time. I think probably it's common to all human experience. However, not long ago I decided that I was going to take a leaf out of quantum mechanics and view the wall in an entirely different light.

Yeah, light—that's what it's all about. When light hits a barrier, some is reflected, some is absorbed and some, if the barrier is transparent, is refracted (that is, it gets bent out of line as it passes through.) There is, however, an incredibly tiny proportion of light that does an absolutely mindblowing thing as it reaches the barrier: it dematerialises on one side and *instantly* (that is, in a zero lapse of time) rematerialises on the far side of the barrier, then continues on its way, reaching its destination sooner than it would have if the barrier had not be there! This might sound like science fiction rather than science, but the plain fact is that the only thing that (in one sense) is faster than light is light that hits an obstacle.

So, children of light, next time you look up at that looming wall, give thanks! It's there so you can get to your destination and destiny faster.



The Gift Of Ideas

Recently I saw a suggestion by a fellow writer which is worth passing on: In the current economic climate, it's time to help fellow authors in small regular ways. When invited to a children's party, give a book as the gift of ideas. Buy an Australian book and get it autographed if possible. Also, instead of a bottle of wine, flowers or chocolates for an adult host, give a book because the gift of ideas lasts longer.

The 2009 Australian Christian Book of the Year award

The short-listed books are:

- *Bright Lights, Dark Nights: The Enduring Faith of 13 Remarkable Australians* by Simon Smart (Blue Bottle Books)
- *Catherine's Gift: Inside the World of Dr Catherine Hamlin* by John Little (Pan Macmillan Australia)
- *Leadership on the Front Foot* by Zachary Veron (Anglican Press Australia)
- *No Ordinary View: A Season of Faith and Mission in the Himalayas* by Naomi Reed (Ark House Press)
- *Now That You Are Back: A Journey Through Depression* by Richard Beeston (Blue Bottle Books)
- *Preach or Perish: Reaching the Hearts and Minds of the World Today* edited by Donald Howard (Donald and Nan Howard)
- *Refuge on the Roper: The Origins of Roper River Mission, Ngukurr* by Murray Seiffert (Acorn Press)
- *Take Heart: For Families Living with Disability* by Kate Hurley (Blue Bottle Books)

About ~ Castle Publishing

In Australia and New Zealand more Christian authors are venturing into the world of self-publishing. Gone are the days of 'vanity publishing' – self-publishing is now a realistic and innovative way of launching a book into the marketplace.

First-time author Myan Subrayan self-published a Christian living book based on his personal story of growing up in South Africa under apartheid, and the biblical story of Joseph. He utilised the services of New Zealand-based publishing company Castle Publishing, who provided full publishing services – editing, type-setting, design, proofing, printing and distribution for the project. Myan says that initially the task of publishing seemed overwhelming but that it was made much easier by working with publishing experts. The results of the project have been exciting. "I have had reports of many people saved and a lot more having received encouragement through the book, and it has opened many doors for me in ministry," says Myan. Since publishing the book, Myan has travelled throughout New Zealand, South

Africa and India as a speaker and the book is now in its second edition. Myan is currently working on his third book with Castle.

Nancy McBride set out to write her story of working as a Wycliffe Bible translator with her late husband Sam in Papua New Guinea. Initially she planned the book for her grandchildren but it has since taken off, reaching a much larger audience in New Zealand and America. For Nancy's book professional input (also from Castle) was important. "The design of the cover and layout of the book was so well done. Lots of people have told me how attractive it was to them. That is a big plus for selling a book!" Nancy's book *Two Lives, One Dream* has recently been reprinted to meet demand.

George Bryant was an experienced author and publisher when he came to Castle with his project *New Zealand Without God*. He published the book under his own imprint Whau Publications but wanted to make use of Castle's production expertise. "Castle had access to readers of the manuscript who offered valuable comments, a professional editor and the use of expert graphic artists," says George. "Their promotion boosted sales and it was worth having the book produced by people who knew what they were doing."

Castle's publishing manager, Andrew Killick, says that these are exciting times for self-publishing with new technology making it feasible for authors to print as few as one copy of their book, all the way up to 10,000 and more. "Self-publishing and small digital print runs are the way of the future," says Andrew. "But getting started can be a daunting prospect. We count it a privilege to work with people who have a unique message, and help to make the publishing process as straightforward as possible. For an author, there's nothing like opening that first carton of new books and seeing their dreams realised."

Since publishing his own books, Myan Subrayan has become passionate about encouraging others to pursue that dream as well. "In light of the favour that I've received through my first book I've made it my responsibility to encourage others to do the things that God has laid on their hearts. Proverbs 18:16 says, 'A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.' You'll never know the opportunities that God will bring your way when you begin to function in the gifts that He has given you."

For information about self-publishing, visit Castle's blog <http://castlepublishing.wordpress.com/> As a special offer to Zaphon readers, Castle is offering a 10% discount off the total cost of publishing services (excluding printing). Contact Castle on andrew@castlepublishing.co.nz to discuss your project.

Congratulations!

Amanda Deed has had her book accepted by Ark House Press

Anne Hamilton has a picture book, *Nerrilee's World*, coming out soon with Wombat Books

Rosanne Hawke has had *The Camel Driver* accepted by UQ Press and *Girl in the Mirror* by Random House.

Paula Vince's *A Design of Gold* is soon to be published by Even Before Publishing

Helen Lowe's *Thornspell* is the Winner of the Sir Julius Vogel for 2009

Light the Dark: the new Australian Christian and family friendly party plan.

www.lightthedark.com.au

Want to read awesome Christian books by Aussie authors? Don't know where to get them from...

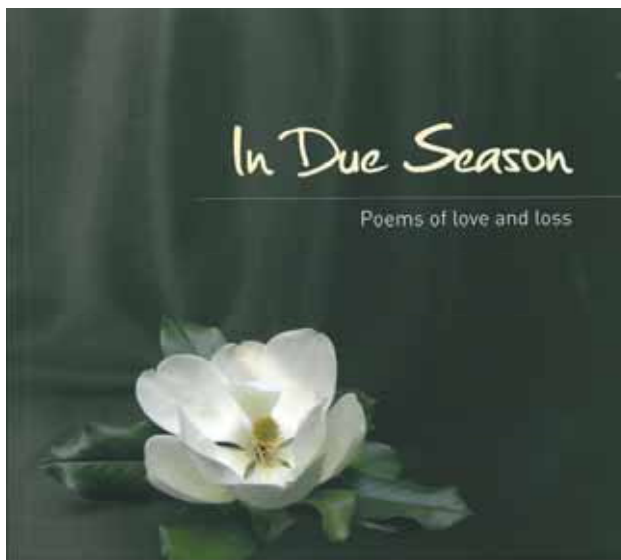
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Valerie Volk's *In Due Season – Poems of Love and Loss* has been published by Pantaenus Press and is available from www.valerievolk.com.au

New from Even Before Publishing

A Design of Gold, by Paula Vince

ISBN: 978-1-921633-03-4

Rec Retail \$19.95

Page count: 240

Paperback

Street date: 1st October 2009

Nicola recovers after losing a friend by taking refuge in a spare room of Casey and Piers Bowman. Jerome, Piers' son, is learning to be a young man on his own, struggling in his quest to make a difference with ideals of mission life from his childhood hero. Michael, a teenager who went down all the wrong roads, is trying to follow the straight and narrow. As their lives intertwine they all learn more about themselves and how true discipleship can even start at home. Romance and drama combine in this new book from the author who brought you Picking up the Pieces and Risky Way Home.

2)

Climbing Mountains: One young woman's journey through breast cancer, by Stacey Charbachi

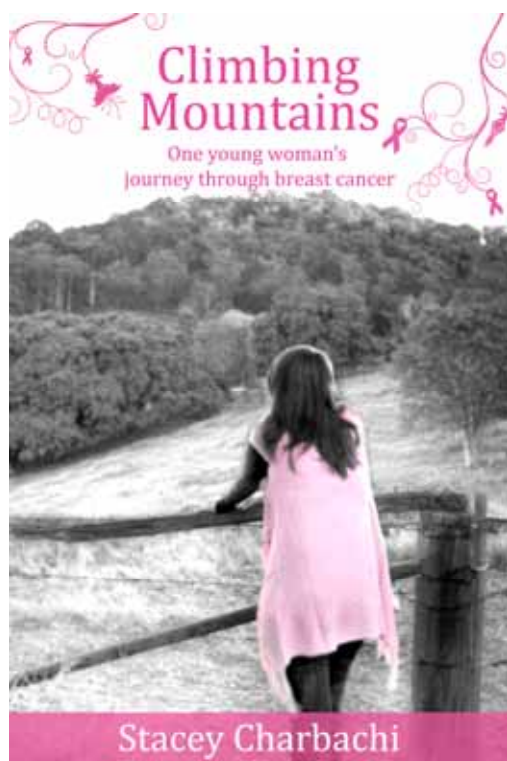
ISBN: 978-1-921632-08-2

Rec Retail \$15.95

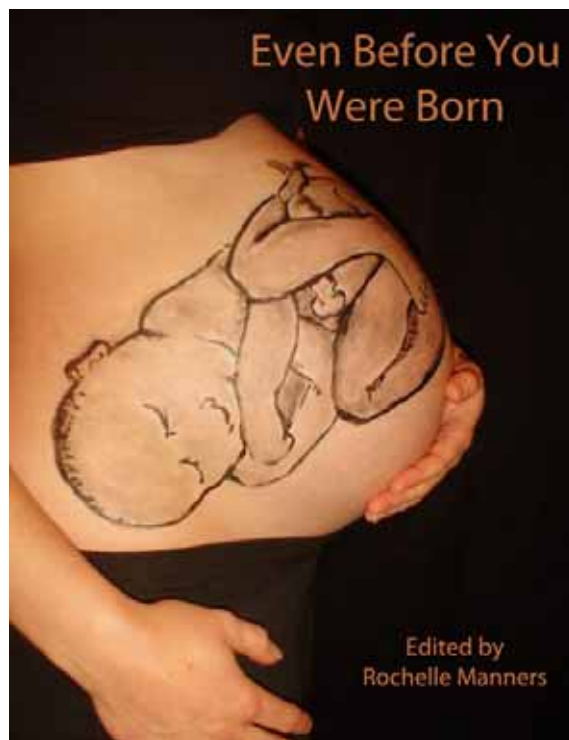
Page count: 96

Paperback

Street date: 1st October 2009



Stacey, at only 28, is about to have her 2nd child when she discovers a lump in her breast. After ignoring it and assuming it is pregnancy related, she finally sees a doctor shortly after having her son. From here we follow her traumatic journey through the diagnosis, surgery, treatment, healing, reconstruction all related to breast cancer. Breast cancer is a hot topic, a concern for so many people, but it is rare you hear from such a young woman experiencing the trauma while caring for a new born child. Journey with Stacey as she shares her feelings in her darkest moments. She is honest and thorough and will hope you through your own journey, or to help a friend in need.



Even Before You Were Born

Edited by Rochelle Manners

ISBN: 978-1-921633-00-3

Rec Retail: \$15.95

Page count: 96

Paperback

Street date: 1st October 2009

From the publisher and editor who brought Unborn Beauty: Celebrating Pregnancy and Parenthood come a new anthology about pregnancy, its joys and challenges, from a Christian's perspective. Use this book as a gift for anyone who is pregnant, they'll laugh and cry as they share their experience with the authors of this book. Over 20 authors have contributed to the anthology, including some stunning artwork, amusing anecdotes and poetry and stories from the heart. Pregnancy is a special time, a God given gift, and being a parent is always a blessing. Share the joy of it with someone today.

Wendy Sargeant (nee McNeice)

reports on the QWC's overseas marketing seminar

What books sell well in Australia? The average popular literary fiction sells at most, 4000 copies. Somewhere between 5000-10000 sold is a best-seller, depending on the genre. In the US it's 50 000-100 000 for a bestselling literary fiction (although interestingly enough, the author of *The Shack* said if he'd known 7000 was a bestseller for religious fiction, he'd never have self-published 10000 to start.) 7000-10 000 is a non-fiction bestseller here.

Publishers can apply for funding from the government through **The Australia Council**. The Australia Council has programs to help emerging authors with overseas marketing. Distributing Australian authors globally is the aim of their international marketing arm. The Australia Council has a representative who goes to all the book fairs. They regularly bring overseas publishers and agents to Australia to meet our authors and publishers. The Market Development arm of the Literature Board supports the publishing industry to find new markets. They will send publishers to the Frankfurt Book Fair to find international publishers for their authors. Look for the International section at the next Brisbane Writers Festival. The other big venue is the Australian Performing Arts Market held biennially in Adelaide. They also support Australian artists to tour internationally. **To get grants with the Literature Board you must have a distributor.**

They are looking at developing digital publishing which will support self publishers.

- There are emerging, developing and established writers divisions.
- The Inter-Arts Section of the Australia Council deals with works across different

platforms. The Theatre Writing section also has grants as well as the Literature Board.

Call staff at the Literature Board for specific grant information. Age is not an issue for determining an 'emerging author' in Queensland. There is a huge market in China for our books. South Korea is hungry for books. Korean rights are on top of the list with publishers. They also go for South American, (esp. Brazilian), Canadian, and the European Union. International residencies are available for six months in Paris or Rome. Conditions apply. A National Audience Development program is dedicated to finding new audiences. The Queensland Writers Centre plays a role also. **Books Alive, printed by the QWC, alerts book buyers to new Australian authors.** Some of the other Australia Council programs to look into are

- Test Drive the Arts
- The Little Big Book Club (encourages readers at a young age)
- The Big Book Club and Fringe Benefits
- Direction 3
- Ozarts.com.au

The main concern of this program is fiction, teens, children's literature and nonfiction. The best way to find a US publisher is to find an Australian agent. AUSTRADE or Trade Queensland will give you o/seas connections. Contact details are on their websites.

Arts Queensland ~ International marketing is a strategic priority. READ their Booklet. They cover theatre writing and new media.

Creative Industries ~ Have international show-cases and take leading Australian. authors and publishers and put them in front of buyers overseas (e.g. Taipei International Book Exhibition). They attended the Calgary Showcase last year.

Check out Wendy's book promotion tips at-

<http://scribewm.wordpress.com/>

<http://scribeofspirit.blogspot.com>

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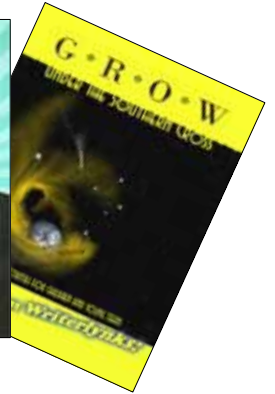
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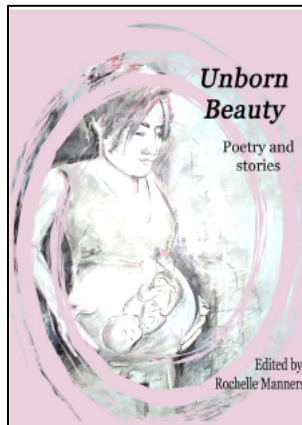
Paula VINCE
The Risky Way Home



Rochelle MANNERS
Chirpy's New Home
Marny Finds an Echidna



Lyn HURRY
Promises (Poems)
GROW-Under the Southern Cross (includes CD)



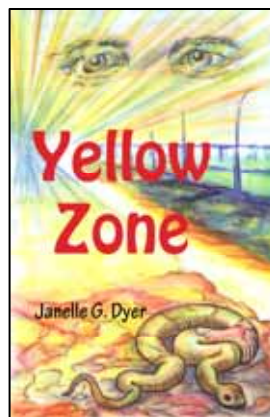
Rochelle MANNERS
Unborn Beauty



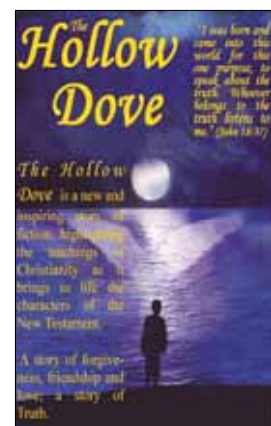
Anne HAMILTON
The Singing Silence
The Winging Word



Wendy McNEICE
As the Eagle Flies The King: Redemption Coming

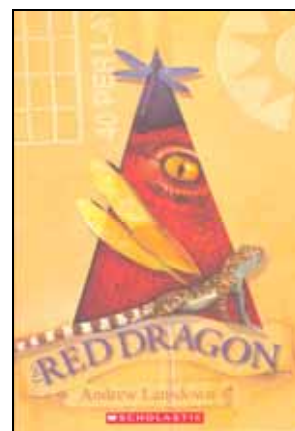
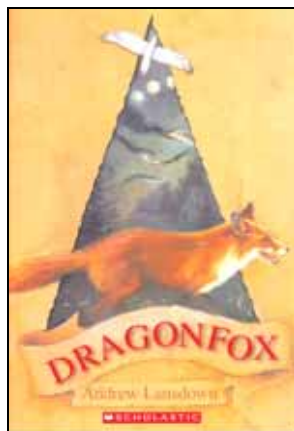
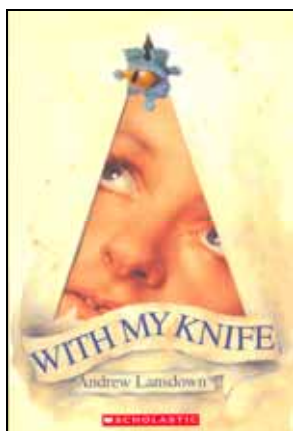


Janelle DYER
Yellow Zone



Belinda CARGILL
The Hollow Dove

Books by Andrew Lansdown



With My Knife, Dragonfox and The Red Dragon — 3 fantasy novels by **Andrew Lansdown**.

Published by Omnibus Books/Scholastic Australia, these novels make good reading for adults as well as children.

With My Knife was shortlisted in 1994 for the National Children's Book Award. The 1992 edition was reprinted three times as was the 2006 edition.

Dragonfox was shortlisted in 1997 for the Western Australian Young Readers' Book Award. The new, 2006 edition was reprinted at the beginning of 2007.

The Red Dragon was first published in 2006 and was reprinted in early 2007. It completes the trilogy, *The Chronicles of Klarin*, and has been chosen as a Notable Australian Children's Books (Young Readers) for 2007 by the Children's Book Council of Australia.

"This [*With My Knife*] is a tightly constructed novel, full of meaning and undercurrent ... The prose is deceptively simple, almost austere ... Lansdown's remarkable ability to convey depth of emotion and breadth of landscape clearly reveals a poet at work." — **Stella Lees**, *Viewpoint*

"I think that your book *With My Knife* is one of my favourite books I've ever read. Every line puts me under more suspense even if its not meant to. ..."

— letter from **Jamie** (aged 12)

"Can you hurry up with the third one. It's suspense. I love them. *With My Knife* was excellent. *Dragonfox* was even better. ... Here's a tip—Could you put in polar bears." — letter from **Ben** (aged 9)

"When Mrs C read the two outstanding books it made me gleam up with glee." —letter from **Lacie** (aged 11)

www.andrewlansdown.com

The usual disclaimer: This newsletter, *Zaphon*, comes free. It costs you nothing to receive and nothing to advertise your books, latest releases, bookstore, editing services, proof-reading etc etc. Priority is always given to Aussie and Kiwi Christian writers. Because it is free and because this is not a job, it happens when it happens and no promises are made about its timing, though it comes more or less every two months. Back issues (including a publisher directory) are to be found at www.buyaustralianbooks.com If I receive no contributions, the usual threats apply: I will indulge myself in one of my own interests and write something about mathematics, medieval poetry or meteorite craters. *Annie*

Stay tuned for the biggest giveaway this side of Christmas! In fact, this side of many Christmases! On 11th November, starting at 11 a.m., 1111 prizes will be given away – books (most of them autographed), e-books, CDs and jewellery – all by Australian authors and artists.