DO OYSTERS GET BORED?
A Curious Life
Rozanna Lilley
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[Personal Essay & Poetry]

As Rozanna Lilley and her husband Neil navigate life with a child with autism, she reflects upon her own childhood and adolescence, spent in a libertarian, self-consciously bohemian household with her parents, writers Dorothy Hewett and Merv Lilley.

Through personal essays, Lilley comments on the ongoing repercussions of childhood trauma and captures her son Oscar’s rich inner world, as revealed through his vivid fantasy life and curious observations. Do Oysters Get Bored? is a shimmering examination of an eccentric family, the complexities of care and the toll of grief in middle-age. A set of poems serve as a counterpoint to the essays in this directly charming and surprisingly funny account of daily life.

Rozanna Lilley grew up in South Perth, the youngest of five children. Her parents - Dorothy Hewett and Merv Lilley - were both left wing radicals and writers. They moved to Sydney in Lilley’s last year of primary school.

After school, Lilley attended a drama school and was in two feature films: Journey Among Women (1977) and The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith (1978). Lilley has worked as a social anthropologist and autism researcher at universities in Australia and Hong Kong. She has published creative non-fiction and poetry in national newspapers, literary journals and edited collections. Lilley has two PhD’s (Anthropology and Early Childhood).