

CROSSING FIFTY-ONE: NOT QUITE A MEMOIR

BY DEBBIE RUSSELL

DESCRIPTION

A week before Christmas 1951, Dr. Ralph Russell risked everything to voluntarily enter a locked federal drug-treatment facility known as a “narcotic farm.”

Sixty-five years later, Dr. Russell’s granddaughter Debbie suffers a debilitating crisis of identity when her father (Dr. Russell’s oldest son), always her biggest fan, is accepted into hospice.

Debbie’s investigation into her paternal lineage reveals family secrets and ignites her mother’s volatile outbursts, propelling her into therapy.

When therapy fails her, the grandfather Debbie never knew saves her, and she collaborates with her dying father one last time to make her biggest dream come true.

Crossing Fifty-One pulls back the curtain on the internal struggles of midlife and provides a blueprint for redefining one’s self beyond the constraints of addiction and dysfunctional family dynamics.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- According to NPD BookScan, adult nonfiction continues to see increased sales over previous years, with some of the biggest numbers coming from self-help, inspiration and memoir
- Universal themes of grief, loss, family dynamics and love
- Two compelling stories of resilience and perseverance makes this work more wide reaching than a basic memoir

AUDIENCE

- Memoir readers
- GenX caretakers of aging parents
- Genealogy/history buffs
- Dysfunction/addiction readers
- Women and book clubs

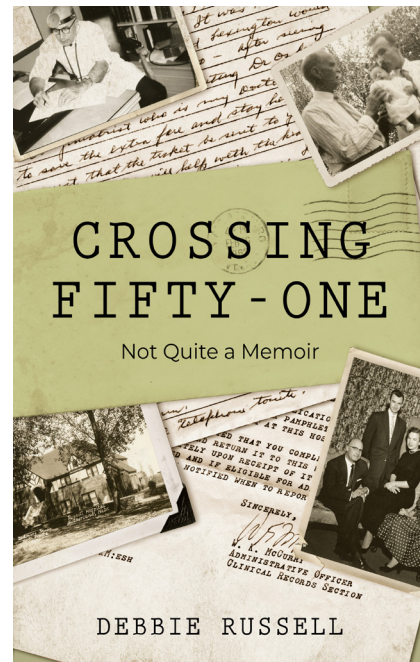
MARKETING

- The author will promote *Crossing Fifty-One* on her website and through her social media accounts. She has a robust newsletter audience and is active on Facebook in groups that engage readers and writers of memoir, women over 50, Fort Worth history, genealogy researchers, and individuals living within dysfunctional family structures. She has secured multiple commitments for podcast and blog interviews. The author plans to approach book clubs in her area and branch out as opportunities present themselves.
- The author has marketing/publicity support in Minneapolis, San Diego and Washington DC.
- The author will promote *Crossing Fifty-One* through readings and signings in Minneapolis, San Diego, Fort Worth and other cities.

AUTHOR BIO



Debbie Russell is a lawyer turned writer. She spent twenty-five years as an assistant county attorney in Minneapolis, prosecuting numerous high-profile cases and fighting off several nervous breakdowns. At age fifty-five, Debbie took early retirement, giving up a full pension for the freedom of time. She now spends that precious time writing, restoring her property to native prairie and wetlands, and training her rambunctious retrievers.



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