

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

- 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, specifically women
- Genealogy/history buffs

REVIEWS: AMAZON 4.8

GOODREADS 4.4

- “Debbie Russell uses her lawyer brain to delve deep into her family’s past and, through that, figures out her own place in the world. It is a deeply satisfying and enjoyable read, and a great tool for anyone embarking on their own journey.”

--Julie Klam, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Almost Legendary Morris Sisters*

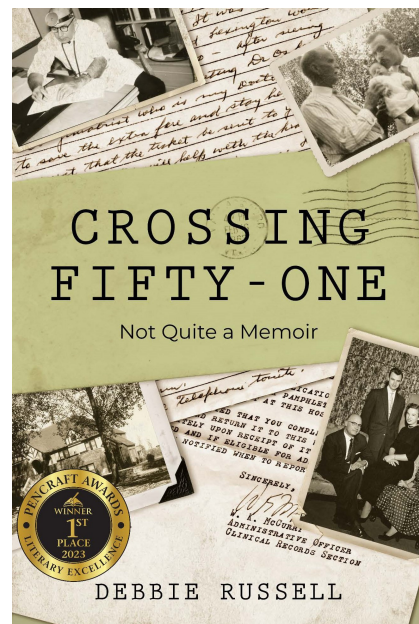
- “It takes a skilled writer to weave together letters from a deceased grandfather, her beloved dad’s importance in her life, and her own struggles. Russell pulls it off beautifully.” --Mary Ann Grossman, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

- “...a powerful saga about mid-life experience and changing family dynamics...” -- D. Donovan, *Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review*

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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