

Advance Praise for *Crossing Fifty-One*

Crossing Fifty-One is a powerful saga about mid-life experience and changing family dynamics that not only deserves a prominent place in libraries interested in family psychology, but also in deep discussions among psychology and book clubs interested in topics of healing, recovery, and physical and mental connections between health, illness, and family relationships.

-- D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, *Midwest Book Review*

"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*

"Debbie Russell navigates anticipatory grief over the decline of her father by embarking on a quest to preserve his legacy, inadvertently uncovering hidden family secrets along the way. Skillfully utilizing her investigative and litigation experiences, she weaves a persuasive multigenerational account that reads more like mystery than memoir. I consumed it in one sitting and can highly recommend this captivating debut!"

--Nita Sweeney, bestselling author of *Depression Hates a Moving Target*

"The generational threads that can bind us together or tear us apart take center stage in this raw and honest mid-life reckoning. A universal tale of family secrets and love in the face of dysfunction--and how the lessons from the past can come back around to save our futures."

--Deborah Burns, award-winning author of *Saturday's Child*

"A story of intergenerational inheritance and choosing what we keep, the author's journey to discover what happened in earlier generations is the catalyst for empathy for her family and for herself. Cheers to author Debbie Russell for unlocking the door that had seemed firmly shut for too long."

--Lizbeth Meredith, award-winning author of *Pieces of Me: Rescuing My Kidnapped Daughters*

“This debut author has created a replication of a flawed and bruised family dynamic that reads like a novel and carries a universality that is quite human, and extremely well developed.”

--Greg Fields, award-winning author of *Through the Waters and the Wild*

“Former trial lawyer Debbie Russell tackles midlife in an entirely unique way, by turning her attention to her paternal lineage. Every family has secrets and Russell faces them head on while in the throes of anticipatory grief. This book will resonate with anyone who has dealt with the loss of a loved one or who is facing an identity crisis in midlife.”

--Maria Leonard Olsen, civil litigation attorney, journalist, mentor to women in recovery and author of *50 After 50: Reframing the Next Chapter of Your Life*

“The author’s father is wonderfully painted—supportive and optimistic, even as he is placed on hospice care. Readers intrigued by genealogical research, or who are facing the realities of aging parents, will find the work to be edifying and engaging.”

--Booklife Prize

“I started reading and I simply couldn’t stop! The story is beautiful and will help so many people.”

--Tracy C. Ertl, Publisher, TitleTown Publishing LLC