

Forbidden: Anne McEncroe

That word was like a red rag to a bull when I was a kid in the Forties.

... Forbidden fruit was always the tastiest.

... Childhood was just one monstrous list of 'Forbiddens'

I was forbidden to jump on the bed (*just waited till no one was looking*)

I was forbidden to swing on the Hills Hoist (*ditto*)

I was forbidden to argue with my sister (*ditto*)

I was forbidden to leave the table until everything was eaten (*and they wondered why I weighed eleven stone when I was thirteen*)

I was forbidden to go on the metal slippery dip on a 100 degree day (*oops! that was a mistake – burnt bottom*)

I was forbidden to go into the closed off playground (*oops another mistake – swing broke - off to hospital*)

I was forbidden to go under the house with the boy next door (*glad I ignored that one!*)

I was forbidden to read after bedtime (*torch under the blankets*)

I was forbidden not to go to church on Sunday (*amazing how often I was sick on a Sunday*)

I was forbidden to talk in line going into school (*broke my glasses and said, "Oh No" and was treated to six of the best with the bamboo end of a feather duster*)

I was forbidden by nuns to wear black patent leather shoes to school dance (boys might see reflection up skirt!)

I was forbidden to bite my nails (*instantly chewed them down to the elbow*)

I was forbidden to go out with boys until I was 17 (*lied through my teeth until then*)

I was forbidden to wear lipstick/makeup (*that was easy – just waited until I was out of the house*)

I was forbidden to be out after midnight (*thank heaven for 'milk and bread servery' -had trimmed down a bit by then*)

I was forbidden to go out with non-Catholic boys (*of course all my boyfriends just happened to be in that category*)

I was forbidden to go overseas until I was 21 (*Off on SS "Canberra" the day after*)

12,000 miles distant from Australia, finally - my own life on my own terms!

... That erstwhile fruit was no longer forbidden!

... That "f" word was no longer in my vocabulary!