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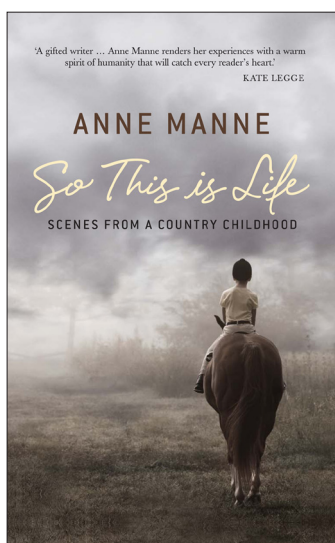
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'A gifted writer ... Anne Manne renders her experiences with a warm spirit of humanity that will catch every reader's heart.'

KATE LEGGE



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Anne Manne is available for
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SO THIS IS LIFE SCENES FROM A COUNTRY CHILDHOOD

By Anne Manne

So This Is Life is a wonderfully evocative account of youth that will surely take its place among the classics of Australian childhood.

At age seven, after her parents' marriage broke down, Anne Manne travelled with her mother and sisters from Adelaide to the Central Victorian countryside to begin a new life. *So This Is Life* is not a conventional memoir but a haunting and luminous account told through stories—unexpected moments of epiphany—where meaning, suddenly and sometimes shockingly, reveals itself.

Possessing an astonishingly faithful and vivid memory of the pain, fear and joy of childhood; a sensibility keenly alive to the beauty of the landscape, the fellow-creatureliness of animals and the comedy, tragedy and dignity of the lives of the country folk she grew up among, *So This Is Life* shows a powerful moral vision being shaped, about the meaning of kindness, and the desolation of grief.

It depicts worlds as far apart as the faded gentility of former goldfields wealth, and the patriarchal spivvory of the country racetrack. Full of inconsolable pain but also impish humour, these stories sparkle like gems.

In the tradition of classics of Australian childhood—like Hal Porter's *The Watcher on the Cast-Iron Balcony* and Raimond Gaita's *Romulus My Father*—*So This is Life* is singular, startling, deeply moving and, above all, utterly engrossing.

About the author:

Anne Manne is a writer and social commentator who has written widely on feminism, motherhood, childcare, family policy, fertility and related issues. Her articles and essays on these topics have appeared in *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *the Australian*, *Quadrant* and *Quarterly Essay*.