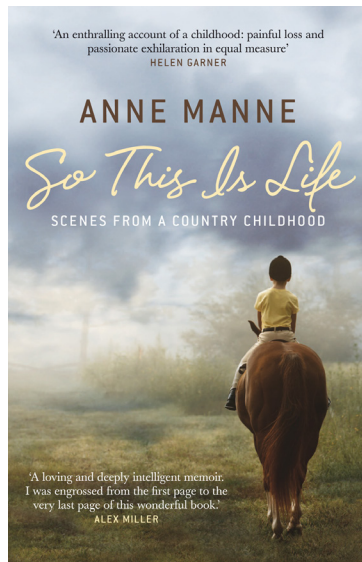


MEDIA RELEASE

MUP Books with spine – the best in politics, current affairs and biography



MUP RRP \$27.99

PUBLICATION/EMBARGO DATE
01 December 2010

Anne Manne will be available for interviews throughout December.

For more information please contact **Terri King** at MUP on 03 9342 0319 or 0406 998 020, or email taking@unimelb.edu.au

SO THIS IS LIFE

Scenes from a country childhood

by Anne Manne

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 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* is 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.

Anne Manne is a writer and social commentator. A former columnist for *The Australian* and *The Age*, she now writes essays on contemporary life for *The Monthly* magazine. Her works include the Quarterly Essay, 'Love and Money: The Family and the Free Market' and *Motherhood: How Should We Care for Our Children*, which was a Walkley award finalist for best non-fiction book.

Praise for *So This Is Life*

'A loving and deeply intelligent memoir. I was engrossed from the first page to the very last page of this wonderful work'—Alex Miller

'An enthralling account of a childhood: painful loss and passionate exhilaration in equal measure'—Helen Garner

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

MELBOURNE · UNIVERSITY · PUBLISHING

MUP 187 Grattan Street Carlton 3053 Australia · +613 9342 0300 · mup-info@unimelb.edu.au · www.mup.com.au