

Marrying Ameerah

Author: Rosanne Hawke

Publisher: HarperCollins

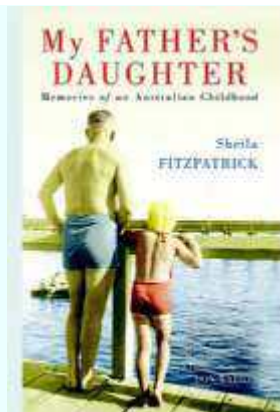
RRP: \$16.99

THE verb in the title doesn't mean "getting married to", but "causing to be married", and what's more, forcibly.

The heroine of Rosanne Hawke's novel is 17, her mother Anglo Australian and her father from Pakistan. When he learns that Ameerah has been socialising with boys her father sends her on a trip to his homeland. Once there she comes to realise that it isn't her cousin Jamila's wedding she will be attending, but her own.

This is issues-based young-adult fiction at its best. Hawke's depiction of the culture is nuanced, but the book never reads as if it were written to a checklist from the Ministry of Multicultural Affairs. It is also very suspenseful at a basic level, without ever cheapening the subject.

Reviewed by Owen Richardson



My Father's Daughter

Author: Sheila Fitzpatrick

Publisher: MUP

RRP: \$27.99

LIKE her father before her, Sheila Fitzpatrick is a historian, and both her profession and her father's influence are evident.

A major figure of the Australian Left in the middle decades of last century, especially in Melbourne, Brian Fitzpatrick was a journalist, civil libertarian and historian. In Sheila Fitzpatrick's memoir, he comes across as a figure for whom the term "larger than life" was coined. There is no bathos here, just a clear-eyed account of her childhood in Australia and early adulthood abroad, including her intellectual development. Her father was central to all this.

With one of the most unsparing, intelligent and engaging autobiographical voices I have encountered, *My Father's Daughter* was a pleasure to read.

Reviewed by Lorien Kaye