

SECOND LIFE

A STORY OF LOVE, LOSS AND HOPE

by David Hoysted

Second Life provides a 'carer's eye view' of what quality of life is, and the value of palliative care at a time when the world embraces euthanasia.

Nanette and David Hoysted were married 27 years when Nanette suddenly suffered a massive and life-threatening brain haemorrhage that left her in a coma. She sustained significant brain damage that would drastically alter her life should she wake.

'If I'm ever in that kind of situation, I'd want you to make the decisions on my treatment, because I know you'd give me a chance,' she had told David some years before. It was the one guide that he had other than his profound love for his 'wife, best friend and soul mate.'

Second Life tells the story of their harrowing four-year journey of love and loss. It's a story of sacrifice, advocating for the one you love and the importance of resilience and courage in the face of trauma and adversity. The book illustrates that 'love is everlasting' as their relationship evolves from a traditional partnership to one that is more parental in nature.

Along the way, there is a miracle drug, new hopes, and new dramas. The life, loneliness, anxieties, and needs of the long-term carer are examined.

The Author

David Hoysted was born in Albury, NSW. When David at age 22 was diagnosed with testicular cancer, his then girlfriend, Nanette Parker was constantly at his side. After marrying, they had no children but always maintained a menagerie of pets, including horses, dogs and cats. Both David and Nan pursued creative interests; Nan was a visual artist and David a keen amateur musician, playing both piano and guitar. In 2020, David enrolled in a Bachelor Of Music at Monash University majoring in Jazz Piano. David had a successful career in IT, including twenty years with the Mars Corporation where he rose to the senior most IT position in Asia Pacific. When Nan became ill in 2014, David became her carer until her passing in 2018. David currently resides in South Yarra in Melbourne.

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The life, loneliness, anxieties, and needs of the long-term carer are examined.

It provides a 'carer's eye view' of what quality of life is, and the value of palliative care at a time when the world embraces euthanasia.

Above all, *Second Life* illustrates that love is everlasting.



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MELBOURNE BOOKS



Front and back cover artworks by Nanette Hoysted