

Good Reads

Reviewed by Felicity Marshall

## **Not Just a Piece of Cake; Being an Author**

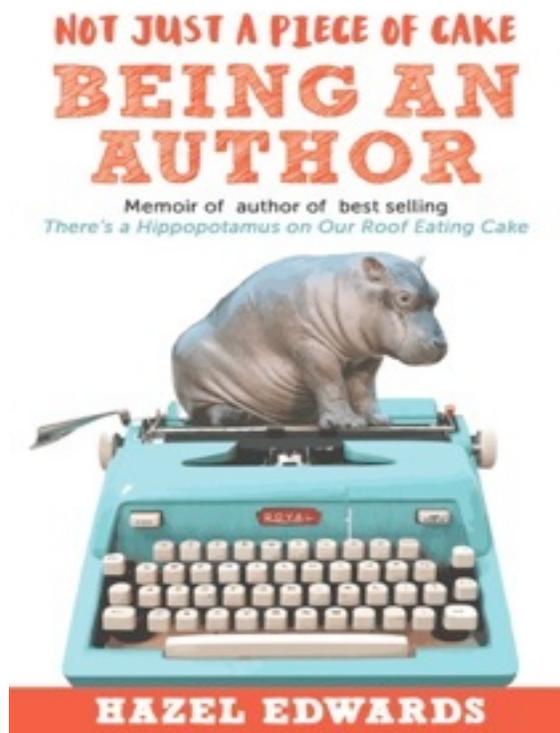
Written by Hazel Edwards

Published by Brolga

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Felicity Marshall's review 5 stars

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Hazel Edwards has a unique voice and it shines through in her memoir 'Not Just a Piece of Cake; Being an Author'. This book is a rich tapestry of her experiences from a childhood growing up in her parents' General Store in rural Gippsland through her years as a mother and a teacher to recently being awarded an OAM for services to literature. It is an author's practical guide to surviving days on the road doing school visits and writing festivals when things can go wrong - bad directions, technical glitches, keeping a large salmon in a motel room with no fridge and losing your voice. Hazel's writing has taken her from outback Australia to China, Europe and Antarctica. Being an author with an inquisitive mind, she delves into topics as diverse as lifestyle on an Antarctic base to family history research and the difficulties

of gender transition. Her works embrace fiction and non-fiction for both young children and adults and she is one of Australia's most prolific and much loved authors. She discusses the practicalities of juggling family life with creative time and gives down-to-earth advice about the perseverance needed to succeed as an author. Hazel's gift for teaching is apparent throughout 'Not Just a Piece of Cake' and her tapestry of anecdotes is sewn together with the threads of humour and compassion. This is a generous book that is a great read for both established and aspiring authors as well as for mature fans of that very famous hippo on Hazel's roof.

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Reviewer Felicity Marshall is a visual storyteller. Her thematic series of paintings & drawings include landscapes, still lifes and portraits. Her children's books are based on contemporary issues, while encased in fantasy.

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