

Book Launch Speech 23 March 2019
***Idle Lies* – Lian Knight**

It is quite surreal standing here. This is a longstanding dream.

I've had a fascination with crime for decades. At one point I had hundreds of books on crime, mostly true crime, and as many of you will know, it is now a standing joke that if my husband Warren ever goes missing, I will be the first place the police will look! But I am a helpful person. If the police need assistance, I am more than happy to provide consultancy advice on the limited ways to dispose of a body so that it can't be found.

I've dreamt for years about writing a book. My career however, was in business management, preparing strategic plans and board reports. And you know what that's like. Executives are short on time and their secretaries are even shorter on patience. If ever there was an adjective used in my document, it was 'get that out!'

So how did I come to today? Believe it or not, I actually kick started this dream more than 25 years ago, when all three children were under the age of two.

Easy, I said to myself. Three steps.

One, find a true, unsolved murder.

Two, write about it when the kids are asleep.

Three, get it published.

I was so convinced of the ease of this task, I got a babysitter and took myself off to Russell street headquarters in 1993 for a meeting with case detectives. Let me share with you how the conversation went.

Do you have a background in forensics?

No.

So you're a journalist?

No

Editor?

No

Film Producer?

No

You are family of the deceased then?

ah, no.

[very long pause]

Thankyou for coming in, Mrs Knight.

Rrrrt. Stop. Didn't even get to first base.

So where did I go to from here with my writing? Well over the years, not far. Life happened. I managed a business career, children, and a husband...they all need work, you know!

But I still dreamt, imagining what it would be like. Then three years ago, Warren said if you ever want to do it, do it now! So I did.

But instead of true crime, I decided to move to crime fiction. That should be easy now, right? Just sit, and put down whatever comes to mind. Yes?

Again those two words - Ah no.

It took me all of five minutes to discover it's hard. Really hard. Why? Perhaps because I've a lifetime of structure. I've been:

a student in a school curriculum

a Uni graduate in a lecture course

a wife and a mother in a family

a team player in a sports game

an employee in a company

in essence, I've followed the rules

Now, for the first time, I could step outside the box. But suddenly, there was no one giving me boundaries of what I could or couldn't do. And anyone who knows my sense of direction would realise...Yep. I got lost!

There were countless times that I sat back and almost gave up, and i wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Warren who believes in me more than I believe in me. He encouraged me along.

And here it is. I should say, for those of you who are willing to read the book, if you come across something strikingly familiar in the story, don't blame me. You shared it! Also, to the person who told me the details of their sexual exploits – don't tell me anymore! I've written that chapter!

Seriously, thank you to all those who have helped me in this quest.

I would like to give an enormous thankyou to my editors Louis de Vries and Anna Blay at Hybrid Publishers, for giving me this opportunity, for all their hard work and for enhancing the book through their thoughtful and practical advice.

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A thankyou also to my daughters Rachel, Kat and Megan for their support, and Kat also for her poster designs – from KJK Illustrations. A big thankyou to the

proof readers who dedicated their time – my father, Maurice Smith, who is not well enough to travel here today, and his partner Nola Turnbull. Also friends Geoff Buntine and Chris Mayo (here today) and Dave Hogan in Germany.

A very special thankyou to Chris Gray, a published author in his own right, for his countless reviews, guidance and edits. And to my husband Warren (a mention again!) a special thankyou for his incredible patience and incredible patience... did I say incredible patience? And honest feedback. I never would have made it without you.

And lastly, a thankyou to all of you who are here today, including the people who have travelled from interstate. Thankyou so much for supporting me and sharing this day. Enjoy!