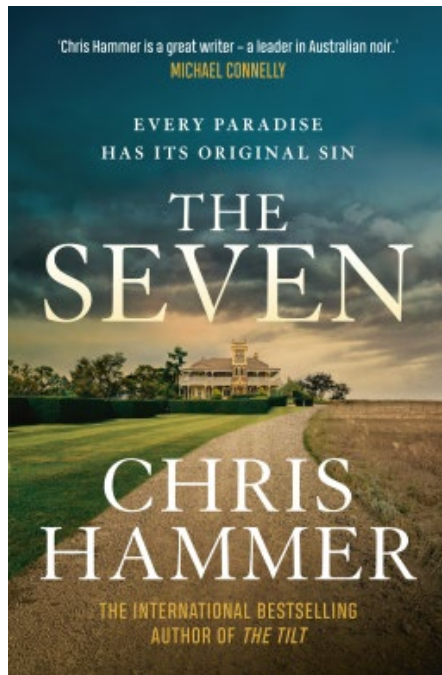


Featured Title

***The Seven* / Chris Hammer Fiction 2020**



Yuwonderie's seven founding families have lorded it over their district for a century, growing ever more rich and powerful. But now-in startling circumstances-one of their own is found dead in a ditch and homicide detectives Ivan Lucic and Nell Buchanan are sent to investigate.

Could the murder be connected to the execution of the victim's friend thirty years ago-another member of The Seven-or even to the long-forgotten story of a servant girl on the brink of the Great War?

What are the secrets The Seven are so desperate to keep hidden? With the killer still on the loose and events spiralling out of control, the closer Ivan and Nell get to discovering the truth, the more dangerous their investigation becomes. Can they crack the case before more people die?

**This is the third book in the Ivan Lucic & Nell Buchanan series
following *Treasure & Dirt* (1) and *The Tilt* (2)**

**Hammer's other detective series is based on journalist Martin Scarsden.
These books are *Scrublands* (1) *Silver* (2) and *Trust* (3)**

About the Author

Chris Hammer was a journalist for more than thirty years, dividing his career between covering Australian federal politics and international affairs. For many years he was a roving foreign correspondent for SBS TV's flagship current affairs program Dateline. He has reported from more than 30 countries on six continents. In Canberra, roles included chief political correspondent for The Bulletin, current affairs correspondent for SBS TV and a senior political journalist for The Age.

Chris has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Charles Sturt University and a master's degree in international relations from the Australian National University. He lives in Canberra with his wife, Dr Tomoko Akami. The couple have two children.



Book Review

<https://1girl2manybooks.wordpress.com/>

Chris Hammer is just incredibly consistent.

This is his 6th fiction novel and they have all just been so good! Three in the Martin Scarsden series and then the three in this Ivan Lucic and Nell Buchanan series, mostly all set in rural New South Wales. I have loved them all but I do admit a slight preference for the Ivan Lucic books, I just really enjoy him as a character. If you've missed Martin though, he does appear in this book quite briefly.

This book is set in three different timelines – 1913, 1993 and the present day and all centre around the small town of Yuwonderie in southern NSW, a town that was built and planned around a water project. The discovery of a body in a canal brings Lucic and Buchanan to the town and almost immediately things are not what they seem. The town is ruled by a group of families known as 'the Seven' – kind of royalty, they orchestrated the water project and reap the benefit from it, their properties being mainly situated in places that benefit the most from the water supply. They're loaded and a lot of the town benefits from their philanthropy but they're also quite ruthless and the more Lucic and Buchanan uncover, the more there are mysteries. How is this current body linked to the death of a member of one of the Seven families in 1993? And what do the letters from 1913 have to do with anything?

The answer is – well a whole lot. The complexity of this plot is a masterpiece and the way in which it unfolds is so engrossing! Look, I will say it probably took me a hundred pages or so to get into it, to settle into the three timelines and the points of view we were getting in each of them. But once I hit that 100p mark, everything just began to come together for me and I couldn't put it down. I felt like this book did such a great job (again, this is a Hammer specialty) in laying out the town and the politics therein, especially in a mostly farming town that is basically not in an area flush with water. The project meant that water was able to be accessed and dammed and distributed in a certain way – or bought and sold. I honestly knew very little about the buying and selling of water, permanent water and temporary water but this book did a good job of explaining everything in a way where it made sense to someone who has never lived on the land.

I really love Lucic as a character – he has strong flaws and he falls prey to them in a big way this book, with some pretty terrible consequences. It makes Lucic have to face his demons and address them, in order to move forward in a meaningful way. I enjoy his relationship with Buchanan and the ways in which they investigate together. This book was definitely more about Lucic and how he went about piecing things together and the impact his personal life was having on his professional life. I had sympathy for him though as his problems are not exactly your every day sort of problems and the type that would definitely be very distracting. I think despite his feelings about this posting originally, Lucic has come to enjoy his role and has learned a lot about the job that he does.

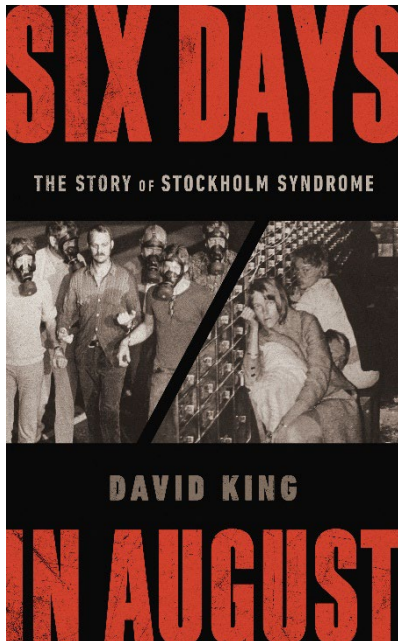
I thought the twists and turns in this were excellent – so much I didn't predict and I thought the ways in which the events of 1913 impacted on what happened in 1993 and how that in turn, also ended up shaping the current day events, were masterfully done. There are no weaknesses in these books and this one definitely suggest that Chris Hammer could write historical crime as well, if he so chose. This is a bit of an epic, in fact any and all of these 'Seven' families feel like they could've been the subject of some crime novel or other!

I don't know if there are plans for more Lucic & Buchanan novels but I hope so. The more I get to read about them, the more I like them as a pairing and the fact that they are in charge of such a large area really does mean that there are endless possibilities.

Featured Title

Six Days in August : the story of Stockholm syndrome / David King

Non Fiction 2020



The definitive account of the bizarre hostage drama that gave rise to the term 'Stockholm syndrome.'

On the morning of August 23, 1973, a man wearing a wig, makeup, and a pair of sunglasses walked into the main branch of Sveriges Kreditbank, a prominent bank in central Stockholm. He ripped out a submachine gun, fired it into the ceiling, and shouted, "The party starts!" This was the beginning of a six-day hostage crisis--and media circus--that would mesmerize the world, drawing into its grip everyone from Sweden's most notorious outlaw to the prime minister himself. As policemen and reporters encircled the bank, the crime-in-progress turned into a high-stakes thriller broadcast on live television. Inside the building, meanwhile, complicated emotional relationships developed between captors and captives that would launch a remarkable new concept into the realm of psychology, hostage negotiation, and popular culture.

Based on a wealth of previously unpublished sources, including rare film footage and unprecedented access to the main participants, *Six Days in August* captures the surreal events in their entirety, on an almost minute-by-minute basis. It is a rich human drama that blurs the lines between loyalty and betrayal, obedience and defiance, fear and attraction--and a groundbreaking work of nonfiction that forces us to consider 'Stockholm syndrome' in an entirely new light.

What is Stockholm Syndrome? <https://www.forbes.com/health/mind/stockholm-syndrome/>

Pop culture often portrays Stockholm syndrome in scenarios where kidnapping survivors fall in love with, express sympathy for or conspire alongside their captors. One infamous example occurred in 1974 when a group of domestic terrorists kidnapped 19-year-old American media heiress Patty Hearst. After her abduction, Hearst announced her support of the group, and assisted her captors in a bank robbery. As the nation watched her case unfold through front-page headlines, many argued the teen was brainwashed. Individuals attributed the famous victim's actions to Stockholm syndrome, a relatively new term at the time.

Stockholm syndrome is a complex—and often misunderstood—phenomenon. Stockholm syndrome is not defined as a mental health condition by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5 TR). Instead, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) considers it a mental and emotional response.

Stockholm syndrome is typically considered a psychological defense or coping mechanism experienced by some during extreme trauma, like kidnapping, domestic abuse or human sex trafficking. We spoke with psychologists to learn more about Stockholm syndrome and what it might look like in different scenarios, like abusive relationships and unhealthy workplace dynamics.

Note: This article references Stockholm syndrome, but some mental health clinicians recommend the term trauma bonding instead, as it may be less stigmatizing.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THAT BANK ROBBERY?

On Aug. 23, 1973, convicted thief Jan-Erik Olsson, 32, tried to rob a bank in downtown Stockholm while on furlough from prison. Police responded quickly, and a standoff ensued.

Olsson, armed with a submachine gun, took four bank employees hostage and demanded 3 million kronor, a bulletproof vest and a getaway car. He also demanded that his former jail mate, Clark Olofsson, be released from prison and brought to the bank. Authorities agreed.

The drama played out on live television in Sweden as police tried to persuade Olsson and Olofsson to surrender. Even Prime Minister Olof Palme got involved in the negotiations.

At one point, a hostage, Kristin Enmark, told Palme over the telephone that she was afraid of the police, not of the two criminals. She appealed to authorities to meet their demands. Enmark later said she had developed a bond with Olofsson, whom she saw as the guarantor of her safety.

Two police officers were injured with gunshot wounds during the standoff, which ended on Aug. 28 when police, using tear gas, stormed the bank, arrested Olsson and Olofsson and freed the hostages.

WHAT ARE OTHER EXAMPLES OF STOCKHOLM SYNDROME?

One of the most well-known cases happened the following year, 1974, when Patty Hearst, the 19-year-old granddaughter of a wealthy newspaper magnate was kidnapped in the United States by the Symbionese Liberation Army, an unknown armed revolutionary group.

Two months later, questions concerning Hearst's ties to her captors — and the notion of Stockholm syndrome — arose after Hearst declared her allegiance to the SLA, denounced her family and posed for a photograph carrying a weapon in front of the SLA flag. She was arrested in 1975 and was sentenced to seven years in prison. President Jimmy Carter commuted her sentence in 1979. She was later pardoned by President Bill Clinton.

Stockholm syndrome has also been applied in the context of victims of domestic violence or childhood sexual abuse who develop connections with their abusers.

For further information:

<https://www.history.com/news/stockholm-syndrome>

Article by Christopher Klein, history author

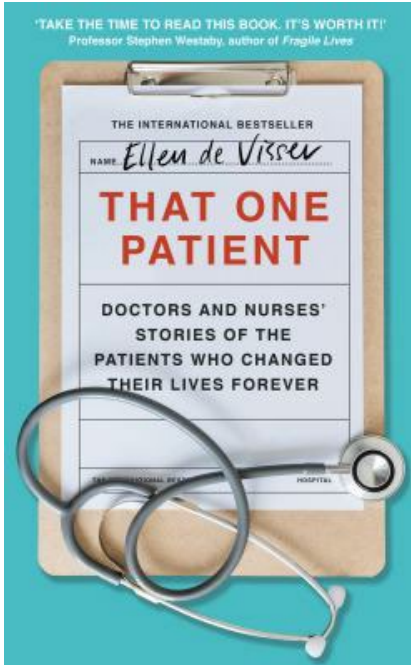


Featured Title

That one patient : doctors and nurses' stories of the patients who changed their lives forever

By Ellen de Visser ; translated (from Dutch) by Brent Annable

Non Fiction 2020



For every doctor there is that one patient, whose story touches them in a way they didn't expect, changing their entire outlook on life. This inspiring and deeply moving book is the story of those patients.

Every weekend, in Holland's most popular newspaper, de Volkskrant, renowned science-journalist Ellen de Visser asks a different medical professional to tell her about 'that one patient'; the patient who changed everything for them. Every day, in every country, thousands of patients share their stories with their doctors: stories they may never have told anyone else; stories that are heartbreaking, sometimes funny, and - just occasionally - unforgettable. To be able to do their job to the best of their abilities, medical experts use their 'professional empathy': they sympathize with their patients but try to keep themselves at a distance.

But there is always that one patient who, for whatever reason, bridges this distance and often unwittingly, has a lasting impact on their doctor's life. There's the dying patient whose decision to donate their organs would save the lives of five different people, bringing incredible comfort to the family they left behind. Or the little girl who showed clear evidence of having been beaten by an adult, but who remained too loyal to her step-father to say a word. There's the little boy, diagnosed with life-threatening malaria in a Sudanese refugee camp, whose astonishing survival against the odds still inspires their doctor each time they stand by the bed of a child who looks unlikely to make it. And there's the cancer patient whose love of cycling and unflagging optimism inspired his oncologist in ways he could never have imagined.

That One Patient is brimming with intimate stories of connection and of the unanticipated ways we can affect one other's lives. All of them remind us of just how extraordinary humans can be, and of our incredible capacity for bravery, strength and humour.

Book Review

By Rebecca Foster 2021

<https://bookishbeck.com/>

Ellen de Visser is a science writer for the most popular newspaper in the Netherlands, De Volkskrant. Her "That One Patient" column, which began in the summer of 2017, turns interviews with medical professionals into punchy first-person narratives. A collection of them was published in Dutch in 2019. This English translation tacks on 10 additional pieces based on conversations with English and American practitioners (including Dr. Anthony Fauci, immunologist and presidential medical advisor), four of them explicitly reflecting on COVID-19.

Many of the cases are decades old yet stuck with the doctor or nurse in question because of a vital lesson learned. Overtreatment is regretted just as much as an omission of care. Again and again, these medical professionals conclude that it's impossible to judge someone else's decisions or quality of life. For instance, a surgeon admits he had a hard time empathizing with his obese patients undergoing stomach reduction until he followed up with a young woman who told him about how invisible she'd felt before her surgery. Premature and disabled children bring grief or joy, not always in the expected doses. A doctor resents the work his team puts into repairing a woman who jumped from an eighth-floor window – why the heroic measures for someone who wanted to die? – until he learns she was pushed. A cancer surgeon develops breast cancer and now knows exactly what her patients go through.

Some of these stories are disturbing: being stalked by a patient with a personality disorder, a man poisoning his girlfriend, a farmer predicting the very day and time of his death. A gynaecologist changes his mind about abortion after he meets a 15-year-old who gave birth at home and left her baby outside in a plastic bag to die of exposure. Other pieces are heart-warming: A paramedic delivers a premature, breech baby right in the ambulance. Staff throw a wedding at the hospital for a dying teen (as in *Dear Life* by Rachel Clarke). A woman diagnosed with cancer while pregnant has chemotherapy and a healthy baby – now a teenager. There's even a tale from a vet who crowdfunded prostheses for a lively terrier.

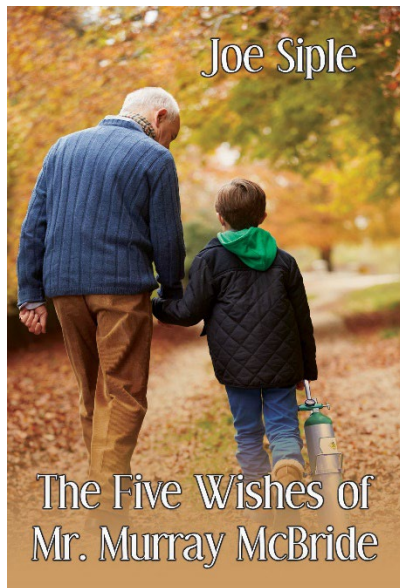
One unique thing about the Netherlands is that euthanasia is legal and provided by doctors upon the express request of a patient suffering from a terminal illness. It is taken for granted in these essays, yet some interviewees express their discomfort with it as an option for young patients. De Visser is careful to note that, even with the situation as it is, only 4% of deaths in the Netherlands are by euthanasia, and the majority of these are end-stage cancer cases.

As with any collection of this nature, some stories are more enticing than others, but overall I found it a surprising and moving set of reflections that is alive to ethical complexities and grapples with tough issues like disability, doctor error, loneliness, pain, and sense of purpose.

Two quotes, in particular, stood out to me, one from a nurse – “We are only ever guests in other people's lives, and that's how we ought to behave” – and the other from Dr. Fauci's piece. In 2014 he treated a doctor who had been volunteering in Sierra Leone after an Ebola outbreak but became ill with the virus and had to be evacuated. “He cited Hippocrates: ‘It is far more important to know what sort of person has the disease, rather than what sort of disease the person has.’ You treated me like a person, not a disease, he said. And that's what medicine is all about.”

Featured Title

***The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* / Joe Siple Fiction 2018**



With all his family and friends gone, one-hundred-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live. He finds it in Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things he wants to do before he dies.

Together, they race against the limited time each has left, ticking off wishes one by one. Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old.

But when tragedy strikes, their worlds are turned upside-down, and an unexpected gift is the only thing that can make Jason's final wish come true.

Reviews

<https://www.goodreads.com/>

This was a heart warming story of a 100 year old man called Murray McBride and 10 year old Jason Cashman. Neither of them are expecting to live much longer. Murray has outlived his wife, his two sons and most of his friends and is ready to go, even contemplating stopping his medication. But that all changes when he meets Jason at the hospital cardiology unit. Jason has a list of the five things he most wants to do before he dies and these become the five wishes that give Murray a new purpose in life as he tries to find ways to fulfil them.

This is a simple story, full of humour and love as an old man tries to navigate the world of today and Jason grows to understand that Murray was once young and vital too. There is a wonderful little girl called Tiegan who is feisty and brave who joins them in their quest and becomes important to both of them. A bit of a tear jerker so be prepared! (Caroline)

STRONG. BRAVE. KIND.

The big TEN-OH is upon him and Mr. Murray McBride is still hanging in there, but so ready to throw in the towel. Everyone he loves is gone....or so he thinks....and he knows he's just a "crabby old codger" anyway with a monotonous daily routine.

But then he meets ten year old Jason, rescues his list of five wishes left behind in the cardiac wing and with the assistance of Father James, hunts down the boy giving himself a purpose in what's left of his life. As Murray and an ecstatic Jason set out to knock out items on the list....with the help of a bright & feisty young neighbor girl, Tiegan Rose Marie Atherton (my favorite character) the adventure begins. Hold on to your seat as you take a few dicey spins in a 1967 Chevy, walk the perilous streets of Chicago, visit Wrigley Field, and hope to God a young boy gets a new heart in time to save his life.

Both Murray and Jason seem a bit too spry at times given their health restraints, and the ending is a bit too "pat", but there's lots to like here as we relive the memories and regrets of an old man and dreams of a young boy. (Carol)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

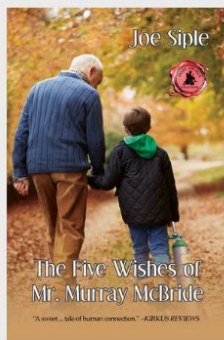
<https://www.blackrosewriting.com/>

Joe Siple is the USA Today bestselling author of *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride*, winner of The National Indie Excellence Award, The PenCraft Award, and named 2018 Book of the Year by the Maxy Awards. The story topped Amazon bestseller lists in the US, Canada, and Australia and has been translated into Korean. Siple lives in Colorado with his wife and two daughters. *The Last Dogs* is his first Middle Grade novel.



Books

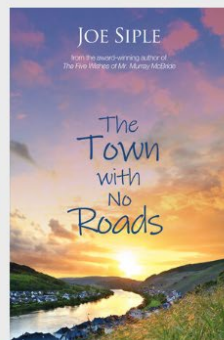
All Books by Joe Siple



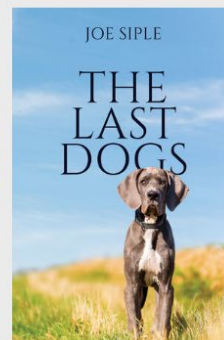
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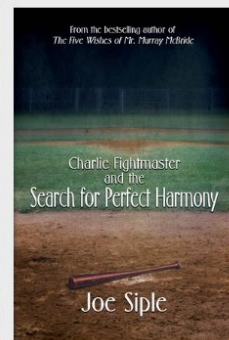
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