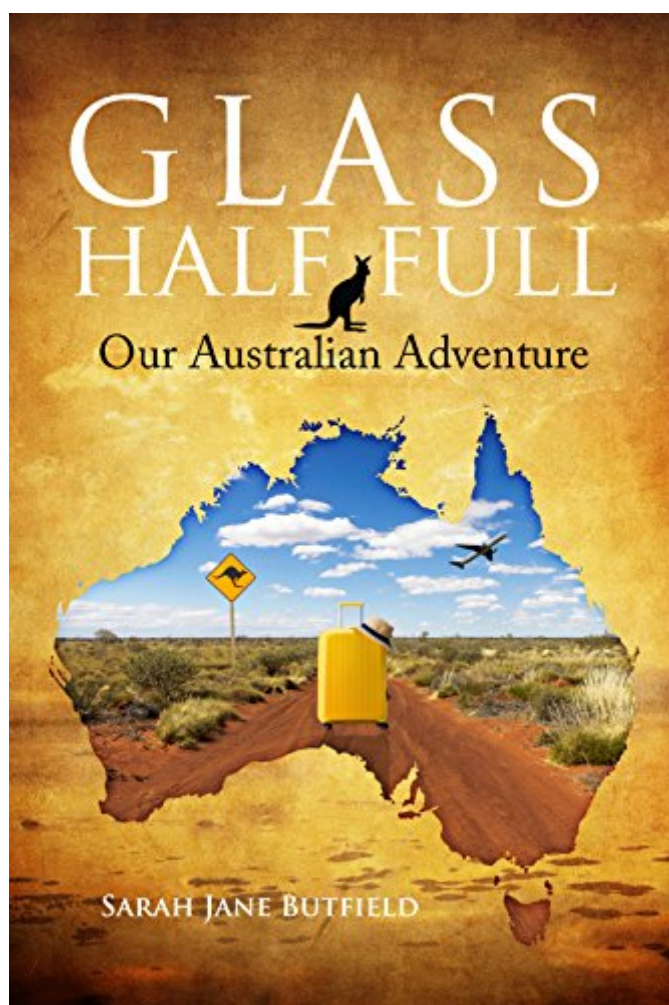


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Class Half Full: Our Australian Adventure (Sarah Jane's Travel Memoirs Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Striving to keep their Glass Half Full, this expat family struggle to cope with loss and grieving, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the devastating Brisbane floods. Life is never without its challenges, but how many life-changing events can one family endure before they reach breaking point? Find out in this heart wrenching and touching true story. After enduring divorce and numerous child custody battles, Sarah Jane knew that moving to Australia was their only chance of future happiness and that as a family they were making the right decisions. Living the Australian dream in Alice Springs was everything they hoped for until life-changing events started to test the foundations of this resilient family. Using every ounce of positive thinking they could muster, they struggled on. However, just as they thought the worst was over Mother Nature intervened and washed away the roots to their new life during the Brisbane floods of 2011. This story lets you experience Australian life with an inspirational woman and her courageous family, as they struggle to survive challenging life events and keep their dreams alive. Here's what readers are saying about Glass Half Full: Our Australian adventure. "An incredibly well-written book, full of emotion, and very descriptive. I feel I have travelled this journey with Sarah and her family." "Sometimes the author made me feel so close to her situations by her brilliant descriptions that I almost felt I had witnessed it first hand. Very clever writing." "It is amazing what people can withstand and still move forward. Their youngest was on a great adventure. As life gets in the way of happiness this couple keeps picking themselves up and moving forward. A must read for those intending to take up life in Australia or Tasmania." "With vivid descriptions of people and places, this riveting story is about a family who leave England for a better life in Australia. They carefully plan each step of their long term goals; to get permanent residency in Australia, become financially secure, and maintain a happy and healthy relationship with their large and scattered family. Glass Half Full, our Australian adventure. Everything goes as planned until a sequence of life-changing events stops them in their tracks, and then mother nature devastates their carefully laid out master plan. An amazing journey of people living life to its fullest. Inspirational!" Reader feedback is appreciated by all authors. As a result, in late 2014 Glass Half Full underwent a specialist memoir edit, the addition of 47 photographs from our journey and now has a professionally commissioned new book cover. I hope you enjoy the changes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Who wouldn't love to live in both or either of these places. Pioneering spirit is what Sarah has. A story of a family who leave England for a better life. At first the life seems perfect, living near town, even with only one car they could make do. Then---Nigel decides to buy land in the wilds and make it suitable to live on. But mother nature has other things in store for them not once but several times. It is amazing what people can withstand and still move forward. Their youngest was on a great adventure. As life gets in the way of happiness this couple keeps picking themselves up and moving forward. A must read for those intending to take up life in Australia or Tasmania.

I really enjoyed this fascinating story about a family giving it all up to emigrate. The book has its lighter and sadder moments and is a real insight into how things don't always turn out how you would wish! Sarah has been very candid with the family and pet dogs' emotions. The bottom line of this story is a lesson to all of us. No matter how willing you are to succeed, sometimes you just have to admit defeat and get on! A good read!

This is a very interesting book and not because the writing is great. It was interesting to me because I think there are a lot of missing pieces concerning the author's earlier life that might have gone a

long way in helping me understand choices made before leaving for and during their time in Australia. And never did I believe the author's insistence that she feels her glass was half full. If anything, I think she was trying to convince herself that it wasn't completely empty. What seems to be left out is what makes the book fascinating from a psychological perspective. I am deliberately being mysterious only because I don't want to upset anyone too much. All I can say is it should be read it with a critical eye.

Butfield provides a great picture of the pursuit of a dream for freedom and independence in the context of today's complexities of mixed families and logistical challenges. Her description of the bureaucratic processes and family adjustments associated with an international move combined with the unique geography and cultures of Australia provide a vivid picture of the obstacles that one must be prepared to face. Her tales of the personal impact of natural disasters are sobering. In fact, it is difficult to imagine a family facing so much in such a short period of time. With a personal interest in microeconomics and individual/family decision-making, "Glass Half Full" is a great illustration of how one's priorities associated with career, health, income, possessions, and family drive specific decisions that have significant implications on one's quality of life. Throughout the book, I wanted to reach out and provide my own guidance for the family's next decision. It is clear that Butfield is a survivor and her writing career is off to a great start.

I loved this book, and although I infrequently share my critiques, I felt compelled to because I don't understand why there are just 8 reviews! Sarah's story is well written; I only read memoirs and they have to grab me from the first few pages or I immediately delete them from my kindle library. This one did...I have accomplished nothing else today except completing this very entertaining story! I admire Sarah and Nigel's determination and ability to always "make lemonade" when life doesn't go as planned. I look forward to Sarah's next book and a continuation of their adventures in France!

Glass Half Full is by far SJB's best book. I read this book first because I was interested in the locale and what it would be like to emigrate to Australia. The memoir held my attention despite the need for better writing and editing skills. Then I read the second memoir, her recipe/journal book and one of her books about self-publishing. I should say I skimmed through them since they are poorly written and edited! Frequently she loses the focus of her story and just meanders. It appears to me that she is publishing her books too quickly without attention to needed editing. And, the overall quality is suffering.

If I had to sum up this amazing story in one word it would be optimism. Sarah Jane has had more than her fair share of knocks in her life and her move to Australia was supposed to be the beginning of a new, healthy life. Having spent a short time in Alice Springs myself, I admired their fortitude in making it their first home in Australia with its difficult climate and quirky way of life. Their move to Queensland was supposed to be a new, idyllic lifestyle and so it was - for a while - until tragedy struck again. Sarah Jane manages to put a positive spin on all the difficulties and tragedies they faced, but more than anything else her deep love for her big, wide-spread family shines through the pages of this book. I highly recommend this memoir.

It's been awhile since I read this and thought I left a review. I love travel memoirs and I know this one was up there on the top. There wasn't any part of the book that was boring and made me want to hurry through. It took a lot of fortitude for this family to do what they did and I applauce them. It would have been much easier to stay in England. Insightful book.

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