

Pauline Luke's Review

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Not Just a Piece of Cake: Being an Author

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Memoir of an Author

As you would expect of the author of over 200 books and numerous articles Hazel Edwards' memoir, 'Not Just a Piece of Cake, Being an Author', contains much information about the process and experiences of being a writer for over thirty years. This makes it a worthwhile read not only for those interested in the life of the woman who wrote the Australian classic - There is a Hippopotamus On Our Roof Eating Cake - the first of a series of books where a Hippo friend guides a child through a various challenging situations - but for the information about the writing it holds for those who may wish to become writers.

With its eye catching cover of a hippo perched on a typewriter, this memoir is not a formal chronological account of the writer's life but more a collection of memoirs, thoughts and events. Edwards has used many of these experiences, such as trekking in Nepal and being an Antarctic writer- as a spring-board for her books. The more casual format, with its series of photos and drawings, is one that those who are contemplating writing their own family memoirs could find useful.