

One Whole and Perfect day Judith Clarke (Allen Unwin)

Performance idea: Interview with a book (Margaret Redrup-May)

Props; two chairs facing each other, side on to the audience

Book in loudly humming “One perfect day” by

Interviewer: Today we have the pleasure of having a different interview. During book week we see authors interviews, but tonight we are going to the source of our annual celebration of Book Week we are interviewing the book.

And tonight's book is ***One Whole and Perfect day*** by Judith Clarke

The book (enthusiastic): Oh hello, this is such a delight, actually being interviewed Usually it's that up-jump author who gets all the attention, at last I'm getting the spotlight, and I just want to state that I'm willing to share this spotlight with ALL books everywhere throughout the history of mankind or should I say book kind if it wasn't for books where would man's so called history be, down the gurgler with every other story told at the pub or burnt up with all the other stories told around the fire (raving!!!!!!)

Interviewer (Jumping in to stop the raving!): Well thank you for coming in tonight so let's start: how would you describe yourself?

Book: Well for all you cataloguers out there, and we know you're there, so you want to know my imprint heh! Ha ha . . . well I think to limit myself to those mere measurements are a trifle boring, just think of me as a handy purse sized paperback, handy for those moments you are caught waiting for something to happen.

Interviewer: How did you start in this business?

Book: I started off as wood pulp, and then turned into paper. Some books are from recycled material but that would be confusing as you would not really know who you were with all those remnant memories in your very fibres. I mean humans talk about previous lives, well just think about the poor recycled paper!

Interviewer: No I want you to go a little bit further on in your life

Book: Oh well as paper I was sent to McPhersons Printing Group in Victoria

Interviewer: No a little bit further on

Book: Umm... Oh you mean when the almighty printed word got onto my pages and I became a book.

Interviewer: Yes (with a sigh)

Book: Well I guess you need to know that I'm not the first book written by Judith Clarke, she's my author; in fact I come from a long line of high quality and renowned writing. Did you know that I am nominated for the Young Adult Book of the Year, and my author, did I mention I was written by Judith Clarke, and she has written such greats like *Wolf on the Fold*, *Friend of my Heart*, *Night Train*, *Starry Nights*, and the very popular and funny Al Capsella series. In fact Judith's novel, *Kalpana's Dream*, was recently named an Honor Book in the prestigious Boston Globe/Horn Book Awards.

Interviewer: Could we get back to you rather than showing off about your family line?

Book: Of course, but I felt you needed to know that I come from quality and therefore the conclusion is clear that I am quality!

Interviewer: I'm not here to argue with you, it's just I would like to highlight your individual qualities

Book: (Mollified) Oh me, you want to know me

Interviewer: Maybe you could highlight your story?

Book: My story involves lots of people; in fact some critics might say a confusing array of people. Lily is the main character and she describes herself as the only sensible one in a family of freaks.

Interviewer: Can you introduce Lily's family?

Book: Lily lives with her mother, Marigold (That's Dr Marigold Samson to you folks), in a rambling house which should be burned down according to Lily's Pop, but that's another story. Marigold is a psychologist working for a day care centre for the elderly. Marigold has a weakness for adopting "lame ducks", in that she brings home troublesome seniors to give their families some respite but I ask you who is giving Lily some respite from all this confusion

Interviewer: So it's just about Lily and her Mum?

Book: Oh no, there's more people, remember I told you that before

Interviewer: Sorry. So who else is there?

Book: There's Lonnie, Lily's brother, but he lives elsewhere since he was frightened off by Pop and his axe

Interviewer: This Pop character sounds a bit feisty

Book: Yeah well you know what he is thinking and sometimes this upsets Nan, who is a bit strange as she has an invisible friend. Lonnie falls in love with Clara, and her parents,

Rose and Charlie, and Clara's friend, Jessaline and then there is a deaf pregnant girl and the boy who Lily wants to fall in love with. Then there is another character, Mrs Nightingale.

Interviewer: Lots of characters

Book: Yeah but the amazing is how they are all connected. In fact it is almost like that concept of degrees of separation

Interviewer: Degrees of separation?

Book: There is this theory that we are all connected to everyone..something like this I was read by Margaret, who has talked to Gough Whitlam . who has had the opportunity to talk to the queen, who has shaken Bono's hand who has had an indepth conversation with the Dali Lama. So I am connected with the shakers and makers of the world. I change influence the world.

Interviewer: That's an interesting side issue, but what about the idea of the perfect day

Book: That would be telling really, but let me leave you with a taste. Lily is concerned that this family of freaks cannot get on and yet her Nan is planning a perfect day for Pop's 80th birthday. Do the main five characters of Lily, Marigold, Lonnie, Pop and Nan have the capacity to come together for a dream ending, and where do the other characters fit in. How is it all possible, you'll just have to read *The Whole and Perfect Day* and find out how a confused collage of characters can come together to create a lovely and wholly satisfying ending

Interviewer: Thanks book for all that information!

Interviewer: (Turn to audience) So you have heard from the book now get your hands on a copy and rediscover this great story and read *One Whole and Perfect Day* by Judith Clarke