

**GOODBYE TO *Italia*** (2016) – ISBN: 9761925497526

248pp; RRP: \$19.95; eBook: Yes

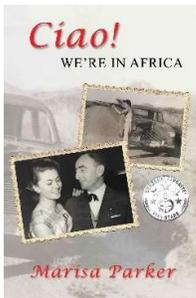
A pretty little Italian girl skips outside to peer up at the unexpected drone of aeroplanes, unaware of the danger, as her neighbour, an eccentric opera singer, fervently prays for her teenage son. It is the start of World War II. An age difference of thirteen years separates the little girl Mariolina Martore and the army officer Eugenio Piergiovanni, but their lives are destined to intertwine.

GOODBYE TO *Italia* is an award-winning non-fiction romantic story of Italian drama, courage and humour. So as to stay true to the retelling by my mamma and papa, and to capture the essence of living through those times, the chapters in the first half of the book interchange between the two diverse characters, Mariolina and Eugenio, as they come of age.

Awards: 2018 - Readers Favorite Annual Bronze Award (non-fiction, biography)<sup>1</sup>

2017 - Readers Favorite (5-star awards from 5 reviewers)<sup>2</sup>, indieBRAG Medallion

Honoree<sup>3</sup>, and International Rubery Book Award Shortlist (non-fiction)<sup>4</sup>



**Ciao! WE'RE IN AFRICA** (2018) – ISBN: 9781925833331

276pp; RRP: \$24.95; eBook: Yes

I was born Maria Martore in 1934. But I have been renamed Lucci by my husband Eugenio Piergiovanni. He is thirteen years my senior, is fluent in three languages and is a charismatic businessman. We have left Italy and the only family I have ever known to go to Africa seeking adventure and fortune. I keep thinking – *Is Africa really going to be that welcoming? Is my husband's dream of selling Haute Couture to expatriates ridiculous?*

Based on true events, and through the writing skills of her author daughter, Maria-Lucci's story, is narrated as a memoir, as if living in the moment. Coinciding historical event timelines have been carefully researched and evocative photographs included.

2019 - Readers Favorite, 5-star review<sup>5</sup> and Goodreads, 5-star reviews.



### **AUTHOR – Marisa Parker**

Born in Zimbabwe, Marisa Parker (nee Piergiovanni) grew up in a strict Italian Catholic family. In 2000, with her husband Gerald, and their two daughters, they left Africa to settle in New Zealand. In 2006, they came to Australia and now reside in the Gold Coast hinterland in Queensland.

After completing a Master Degree in Project Management whilst working fulltime in a university, Marisa began writing the story of her Italian parents.

Marisa is a Committee Member of the Gold Coast Writers Association and believes that everyone has an interesting story to tell.

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- Webinar Series on Writing a Family Story:  
<https://www.marisaparkerauthor.com/webinars>

*Please seek approval from the author for any article or review.*

<sup>1</sup> <https://readersfavorite.com/2018-award-contest-winners.htm#goodbye-to-italia>

<sup>2</sup> <https://readersfavorite.com/rfreviews/search?search=marisa+parker>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bragmedallion.com/award-winning-books/non-fiction/goodbye-to-italia/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ruberybookaward.com/2017-winners.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://readersfavorite.com/rfreviews/search?search=marisa+parker>