



# [Happy as : stories of summer, childhood and the magic of family ] By Larry Emdur

First published in 2022

## Genre and Subject

Domestic fiction      Australian fiction  
Country life -- New South Wales -- fiction  
Life change events -- fiction

## Synopsis

Long before the game shows and morning TV, Larry Emdur was just Larry, a cheeky kid from Bondi who grew up paddling round the kiddies' pool on a foam surfboard, and rocking a safari suit and bowl haircut. It was an idyllic childhood growing up in the 1970s and '80s, dominated by endless summers, adventures with mates, sunburnt noses and board rashes, all underpinned by his dad's simple rule: 'Be nice to everyone.'

Told with wit and warmth, *Happy As* charts Larry's career as a professional show-off, from winner of the Rose Bay Public School marching parade to living-room fixture. From his first 'job' pinching golf balls to that big TV break; from awkward teen romances to true love; from the less-than-impressed prize winners on *The Price is Right* to unexpectedly bonding with Yoko Ono - this is a life-affirming collection of stories about the enduring love of family and friends, and just how far being nice to everyone will get you.

A perfect blend of nostalgia, side-splitting humour and heartbreaking pathos that will leave you wishing it was the '80s again.

## Author Biography

LARRY EMDUR is TV's Mr Nice Guy and one of Australia's loveable larrikins. At 19, Larry got his first job in television with Seven Nightly News, but he was never going to be a conventional broadcast news journalist.

Over the next forty years, Larry would find his niche in Australian television, hosting popular game shows including *The Main Event*, *Wheel of Fortune* and a record-breaking 1500 episodes of *The Price Is Right* over three series. In 2007, along with Kylie Gillies, Larry became the co-host of Seven's *The Morning Show*, a programme that has dominated morning-TV ratings for over 15 years. In 2021, Larry also became the host of one of Australia's top-rating quiz shows, *The Chase Australia*.

Away from television, Larry has been heavily involved in charity work, partaking in countless events including two cross-country Variety club bashes and various charity motorcycle rallies. He's also been an ambassador for the Raise Foundation youth mentoring programme and sailed in three Sydney to Hobart Yacht Races to raise money for the Humpty Dumpty Foundation.

At the age of 50, Larry was crowned Men's Health Celebrity Man of the Year, becoming the magazine's oldest ever cover guy. That year, he also failed miserably on *Dancing with the Stars*, but he'd rather not talk about that.

## Discussion Starters

1. What aspects of the author's story could you most relate to?
2. How honest do you think the author was being?
3. What gaps do you wish the author had filled in? Were there points where you thought they shared too much?
4. Think about the other people in the book besides the author. How would you feel to have been depicted in this way?
5. Why do you think the author chose to tell this story? What did you already know about this book's subject before you read this book?
6. What new things did you learn?
7. What questions do you still have?
8. What else have you read on this topic, and would you recommend these books to others?
9. What do you think about the author's research? Was it easy to see where the author got their information? Were the sources credible?

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