



The one and only Dolly Jamieson By Ireland, Lisa

First published in 2023

Genre and Subject

Homeless women -- Fiction

Libraries -- Fiction

Interpersonal relations -- Fiction

Reminiscing in old age -- Fiction

Synopsis

Dolly Jamieson is not homeless, she's merely between permanent abodes. The 78-year-old spends her days keeping warm at the local library, where she enjoys sparring with the officious head librarian and helping herself to the free morning tea. It's not so bad, really. But it's certainly a far cry from the 1960s, when this humble girl from Geelong became an international star of the stage. As the acclaimed lead in the Broadway production of "The Rose of France", all Dolly's dreams had come true. So how, in her old age, did she end up here? When Jane Leveson, a well-to-do newcomer to the library, shows an interest in Dolly, the pair strike up an unlikely friendship -- and soon Jane is offering to help Dolly write her memoirs. Yet Dolly can detect a deep sadness in the younger woman's eyes. Perhaps by working together to recount the glittering highs, devastating lows and tragic secrets of Dolly's life, both women can finally face their pasts and start to heal...The One and Only Dolly Jamieson is a compelling feel-good novel featuring a proud and gutsy heroine with a truly unbreakable spirit. From the glamour of Broadway in the 1960s to the realities of life for the unhoused today, this is a riveting and heartbreaking story of friendship, second chances and hope.

Author Biography

After working for many years as a teacher (and a brief stint as a professional organiser – before Marie Kondo made it cool), Lisa Ireland is now a full-time writer.

Lisa lives with her husband in a small town in Gippsland, Victoria. When not writing, she spends her days mentoring aspiring authors, drinking coffee and playing minion to her incredibly spoiled dog, Lulu.

Lisa's eighth novel, *The Studio Girls*, will be published in April 2024.

Discussion Starters

1. Would you recommend this book to someone? Why or why not (or with what caveats)?
2. What kind of reader would most enjoy this book?
3. How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you the most about the book?
4. How thought-provoking did you find the book? Did the book change your opinion about anything, or did you learn something new from it? If so, what?
5. How did the book make you feel? Did it evoke any emotions? Make you laugh, cry, or cringe?
6. How, if at all, did this book relate to your own life? Did it evoke any memories or create any connections for you?
7. Did you highlight or bookmark any passages from the book? Did you have a favorite quote or quotes? If so, share which and why?
8. What were some of your favorite scenes from the book? Why did they stand out to you?
9. What was the most challenging or difficult part of the book for you to read or understand? How did you overcome it?
10. How would you adapt this book into a movie? Who would you cast in the leading roles?
11. If there was one thing about the book you could have improved, what would it be?
12. Rate this book on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Why did you give the book the rating you did? Did any part of this book club discussion change your rating from what it would have been directly after finishing the book?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

- *My favourite mistake* by Marian , Keyes.
- *The bee sting* by Paul, Murray

Author biography from <https://www.penguin.com.au/authors/lisa-ireland>

Discussion starters from <https://bookclubs.com/blog/ultimate-list-of-book-club-discussion-questions>